

Hafa Adai!

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Social media experiment gone wrong

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Police have learned that a group that approached and tried to entice William S. Reyes Elementary School students to follow them after school last week was only doing a social media experiment project for school.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tar-kong told *Saipan Tribune* that as of yesterday afternoon, police

were interviewing a female student, who was among the group of students that conducted the

See SOCIAL on Page 4

» **DPS finds out
'strangers'
were doing a
school project**

Lawmaker pushes for people's vote on proposed military buildup

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) will introduce House Legislative Initiative 19-2 seeking to amend Article XIV of the CNMI Constitution to prohibit destructive military activities in the Commonwealth.

The initiative also "seeks to give the voters of the Commonwealth the opportunity

to amass the force and effect of the Constitution to prohibit any and all forms of destructive military activities in the CNMI."

Demapan said he will introduce the legislative initiative in a House session this Thursday on Tinian

As with any other legislative initiative, passage will require the affirmative vote of three-fourths of

each legislative house.

Demapan said if passed by the Legislature, then the Commonwealth Election Commission, pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 5 of the Commonwealth Constitution, shall place the legislative initiative before the people of the Commonwealth for a rati-



Demapan

fication vote in the next regular general election.

"The transformation of the CNMI from a tourist destination into an island chain upon which the U.S. military conducts live-fire training and bombing exercises is extremely troubling to the people of the CNMI," Demapan said.

Demapan said he is proposing to add a new section under Article XIV of the Constitu-

See LAWMAKER on Page 4



30 Chinese investors visit CNMI

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
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REPORTER

A group of about 30 Chinese investors arrived in the CNMI to tour around and look into possible business ventures on the island.

The group arrived last Saturday morning and before flying off last night attended a business seminar headed by Atty. Janet King at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Also in the seminar to welcome the investors were Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG

Torres, acting Commerce Secretary Dave Maratita, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan.

"This is the best place to bring families and investments. In behalf of Gov. Inos, we welcome all investors here and we also want to thank you for your effort," Torres said.

The CNMI is ready for your in-

vestment and we will protect your investment...Let's have a good working relationship," he added.

At the seminar, the EB-5 program was introduced and discussed with the group.

Under the program, at least \$500,000 must be invested in a U.S.

See CHINESE on Page 4

Thirty Chinese investors together with Da-Heshi Entity general manager Yibo Hu arrived in the CNMI to tour around and look into possible business ventures on the island. They also attended a business seminar headed by Atty. Janet King and met with Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, acting Commerce Secretary Dave Maratita, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

INSIDE



NATION

The National Security Agency will ultimately be out of the business of collecting and storing Americans' calling records.

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WORLD

The U.N. Ebola chief said Monday he believes "it's only a matter of weeks" before the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone ends.

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LIFE & STYLE

Bruce Jenner's transition is complete. "Call me Caitlyn," declares a headline on the July cover of Vanity Fair, with a photo of a long-haired Jenner.

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Local

CUC: Rising fuel prices result in FAC increase

Following a rise in average fuel prices, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will increase the Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC) pass-through rate, known previously as the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause (LEAC).

The current LEAC fuel charge of \$.17108 per kWh will increase to \$.19346 per kWh, or 13-percent effective June 1. As a result, residential customers who use 455 kWh of power per month will pay an additional \$10 in their monthly billing.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel-related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam

and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate.

The FAC is used to purchase fuel and serves as one of the two components that make up a CUC power bill. The second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

CPUC granted CUC the ability to adjust the FAC rate based on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the Mean

SIDEBAR

Five new positions for CUC power division

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board approved five new positions for the utility's power division last Friday.

This came amid discussion about CUC's restoration efforts during and after Typhoon Dolphin last month.

Board director Albert A. Taitano, who is also chair of the personnel committee, mo-

tioned for a vote on these new positions, which are all for power crew linemen.

CUC power division manager Gary Camacho on Friday said they received 131 trouble calls due to Typhoon Dolphin.

There were about 21 CUC crewmen working during the typhoon.

In total, CUC's call center received 3,992 calls from

customers before, during, and after the typhoon.

When asked, Camacho told board members there were about one or two linemen at each feeder.

He said CUC crew worked together for 18-hour shifts, but four remained on shift during the off period.

He said they were lucky that damages weren't as ex-

tensive as they thought.

He said with more personnel they would save money.

Taitano and the board, meanwhile, commended CUC's restoration efforts.

Taitano called for letters of commendation and certifications for all CUC staff on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. He also asked that these be placed in a frame.

The board agreed to do so when it was put to a vote. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

of Platts Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing equals or ex-

ceeds 4.5-percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in

the calculation of the FAC rate. CPUC conducts periodic re-

views of CUC's fuel charges to ensure that consumers pay no more or less than the actual cost of fuel. CNMI consumers have experienced an almost 36-percent decline in the LEAC since mid-2014.

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government which provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Please direct inquiries to CUC Call Center 664-4282. **(CUC)**

Marianas Young Professionals joins Adopt-A-Highway Program



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

The Marianas Young Professionals became the newest member to DPW's adopt-a-highway program. MYPros president Bo Palacios and vice president Nola Hix met with Public Works Secretary James Ada, coordinator Jack Sablan, and other DPW members at the presentation of the road signage to be used in Garapan Street.

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
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REPORTER

The Marianas Young Professionals became the newest member of the Adopt-A-Highway Program of the Department of Public Works.

Road signs that will be used for the areas the group adopted were presented at the department's office in San Jose yesterday.

In attendance at the presentation of the road signs were MYPros' president

Bo Palacios and vice president Nola Hix, Public Works Secretary James Ada, Adopt-A-Highway coordinator Jack Sablan, and other DPW members.

"In behalf of DPW, thank you for being a part of our endeavor," Sablan said.

"We plan to be very active in our community and try to make it cleaner, more safe. This is actually one of the things that we do as an organization," Palacios said.

MYPros will now be responsible for Garapan Street (Route 308) in Garapan.

According to Hix, they chose to adopt this highway because they noticed the need to replace the bulbs of the light posts in the street. She added that they are working closely with DPW and other agencies to ensure that these are replaced so the community and our tourists will feel safe when walking through this highway.

"At night you will see few tourists but mainly kids who visit the Garapan Basketball Court walking up and down this busy highway in the dark. We must work together to ensure the safety of

these kids, and we also plan to teach these kids to help us keep our island clean by volunteering to help us maintain this highway," Hix said.

She said this will be an ongoing project for the MYPros Environmental & Community Projects Committees.

With the addition MYPros, there are now 23 members of the adopt-a-highway program.

Members of the program are expected to at least to clean their part of the roads every quarter.

Application deadline extended for Coldwell Solar Scholarship

Northern Marianas College has announced that it is extending the deadline for the Coldwell Solar Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to eligible high school students interested in taking college courses that can also count toward their high school graduation requirements.

The scholarship application deadline has been extended to June 12, 2015.

The funds can be used to pay tuition for up to two courses for enrollment during the summer or the upcoming school year. High school students should meet with their high school counselor to pick up an application packet and to ask for a letter of recommendation.

In addition, the criteria of meeting the English 101 and Math 132 placement level is preferred, but is not required. Students will still need to take the English and Math placement tests to provide their test scores to complete their scholarship application.

For information about NMC's summer semester class schedule or placement test dates, visit www.marianas.edu.

For more information about the scholarship, contact the Daisy Manglona-Propst, Financial Aid director, by emailing daisy.propst@marianas.edu or call 237-6792. **(NMC)**

Recipients of SCC scholarship, SYP new logo revealed today

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its General Membership Meeting for June at the Hibiscus Hall of Fi-

esta Resort & Spa.

On the agenda is the presentation of the lucky applicants who were chosen to receive the Chamber's one time monetary award this year.

The Educational Scholarship

Fund is a tradition of the Chamber and is used to help students defray the cost of their secondary education.

Six applicants will receive the \$2,000 Chamber scholarship. They have four awards for high

school, one for college, and one for vocational studies.

Included in the basic considerations for the scholarship are academic excellence, extracurricular success, leadership force and service learning.

"This is always a fun meeting, and personally I'm very inspired by the smart and talented group of applicants," said executive director Jill M. Arenovski.

Also on the agenda is the reveal of the new logo for the Chamber's committee of the Saipan Young Professionals after they held a logo-design contest for high school students.

The logo will represent the committee's core value and identity as Saipan's young professionals and will also symbolize SYP's value in education, dedication to collaboration, and belief in a better Marianas.

Winning participants of the contest will receive \$300, \$200, and \$100 plus gift packages. Another two will be chosen to receive consolation gift packages.

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Climate change forum will not tackle draft EIS on military activities

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

A climate change stakeholder meeting involving all the insular areas will not tackle a draft environmental impact statement on "live-fire" activities in the CNMI.

Kia'aina visits Capital Hill on a courtesy call

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina paid a courtesy call to Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Capital Hill last Monday.

According to Press Secretary Ivan Blanco, it was the first time for the two leaders "to officially meet."

In an earlier interview, Kia'aina said her planned meeting with Inos will involve "bilateral discussions."

Before the courtesy call, Kia'aina delivered a speech during the groundbreaking ceremony of the closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite held the same day.

In the ceremony, Kia'aina also gave a letter of approval to Inos grating the governor's request for an additional \$1.3 million funding for the closure of the dumpsite.

The courtesy call and speech at the groundbreaking ceremony were at the top of Kia'aina's agenda on her visit to the CNMI.

Within the same day, the official also met CNMI leaders to discuss the CNMI workforce and economic development and other concerns.

She was also expected to discuss topics such as immigration, climate change, military training, and economic development. Kia'aina also met with the Northern Islands Mayor Jerome K. Aldan and Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas.

Overdue

The long-awaited closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite and its planned conversion into a park inched closer to reality on Monday with a groundbreaking ceremony led by CNMI leaders and witnessed by U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina.

This is one of the biggest federally funded capital improvement projects for the CNMI.

Armed with an initial funding of more than \$20 million, the Inos administration awarded the project to a private contractor last March.

Monday's groundbreaking signals the start of work on the project, which took 12 years and a number administrations to finally take off.

The U.S. Insular Areas Climate Change Stakeholder Meeting is slated on June 4 and June 5 in Guam.

According to U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina, nearly 90 officials from the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States, federal agencies, higher education institutions, and key non-governmental groups, will meet to discuss efforts to develop and strengthen climate change adaptation and resiliency plans and strategies for the insular areas.

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Defense will attend the stakeholder meeting, Kia'aina said.

However, there will be no discussions on a draft EIS on military buildup in the CNMI, particularly Tinian and Pagan.

The draft EIS details military exercises including "live-fire" and bombing activities. The proposed activities have been met with opposition by the CNMI community and its leaders.

"Not at the forum, this is

for climate change," Kia'aina said, when asked on the draft EIS. "But the DoD will be there on two panels, one is on disaster preparedness and two, on a biosecurity plan for Hawaii and Micronesia."

Kia'aina further explained that the U.S. government continues to view climate change as the greatest challenge facing the world today and that all of its the military installations in the world need to start to address climate change.

Attendees

Participating officials will represent Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

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The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, meanwhile, confirmed its participation to the climate change meeting.

DLNR Secretary Richard Seman said he will not be able to attend, but the department will be represented by two DLNR officials.

"Climate change has always been important to the CNMI. We have been attending the climate change meeting since 2010," Seman said.

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Limtiaco, coalition organize workforce dev't training for crime prevention



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco, fifth from left, talks about the upcoming workforce development training for crime prevention during a press conference yesterday morning at the U.S. Attorney's Office's conference room on Saipan. Also in the photo are members and representatives of the Diverse Community Outreach Coalition that is helping the U.S. Attorney's Office in organizing the event that will be at Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall in Susupe on June 18 and 19.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco yesterday announced the upcoming workforce development training for crime prevention.

At a press conference, Limtiaco said the training, which will be held at Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall in Susupe on June 18 and 19, 2015, will also be accessible to both Tinian and Rota.

The workforce development training, which has a theme "One Community CNMI," is free and open to the public. The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Diverse Community Outreach Coalition organized the event.

Limtiaco said it is the event in which they are emphasizing the need for their community partners to come together to engage

in crime prevention, strengthening protections for vulnerable populations, and reentry efforts.

Limtiaco said the coalition was established post 9-11 when then Attorney General Eric Holder had asked various communities to come together and talk about concerns about issues and work toward improving relation with law enforcement.

She said over the years, the coalition talked about crime prevention, national security, civil rights, labor and immigration.

More recently, she said, the coalition has wanted to look at the smart on crimes initiative that was announced by then AG Holder in 2013 by using workforce development as a strategy or means by which they can achieve and meet the goals of the initiative.

"The goals are making sure

that we address crime prevention, strengthening protections for vulnerable populations, and reentry efforts," she said.

She explained that when they are talking about re-entry, they are referring about assisting, preparing effectively those who are completing their terms of incarceration, and will be reentering society so that they can become productive members of the community.

"When we have someone who is at risk or part of the vulnerable population or disadvantaged, we provide educational opportunities," Limtiaco said.

She said when they provide opportunities to develop a person's skillset or enhance their skillset then certainly that can lead to doors opening up for jobs, for careers.

Limtiaco said when that happens, a person who is at risk or

disadvantaged or part of vulnerable population, self-esteem grows, self-confidence grows, and then people then are more likely to make decision that would be based on good judgment and become more self sustaining than individuals who have none of that support in place.

At the training, there will be special messages from U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, and remarks from Gov. Eloy Inos, Senate president Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), House Speaker Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan.

At the session, Limtiaco said, there will be an overview of employment and labor laws and that there will be off-island

trainers, including those from the Department of Justice Office of Justice Program, which is a major grant and federal funding sources across the country.

There will also have trainers from the National Institute of Corrections Community Services Division joining as well as an expert in Criminal Justice consultant.

There will be trainer the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, who will be joining to provide training on employment and on labor laws as well as compliance issues that will be addressed by U.S. Labor.

The Federal Bureau of Prison will talk about re-entry as the assistant director will be joining them, Limtiaco said.

CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Edith Leon Guerrero said the training is very timely.

Leon Guerrero said it is important that they address the issues facing the community today in the Commonwealth.

"We really need to take control of the situation and put everybody in the same room and talk about the major issues," she said.

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart said one of the benefits that they're looking at in their involvement in all of these, is how can they be assisting the CNMI.

"Because we know the more educated a workforce is the greater that it deters from crime or being incarcerated,"

Hart said.

Hart said NMC's role and responsibility here would be of course how can the college can help in ensuring and help with the education that can be going on both inside and working with the population.

She said maybe there should be focus on assisting those who have come out of the system who may now need to have that education and assistance.

Attorney Pamela Brown-Blackburn said she is president of the Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law, which started a project called Hope (Humanitarian Opportunities for Positive Empowerment).

"We're trying to basically recreate what existed when we had the Federal Labor Ombudsman Office, but expand that to include the local population, U.S. eligible workers in that service," Brown-Blackburn said.

Among the coalition members present at the press conference were Saipan Rotary Club president Richard Cody, Micronesian Legal Services Corp.'s Lee Pliscou, Public School System's representative Cynthia DeLeon Guerrero, Division of Youth Services director Vivian Sablan, DYS investigator Julian Camacho, Grace Christian Assembly Pastor Ray Kinsella, Department of Commerce acting secretary David R. Maratita, and Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence executive director Maisie N. Tenorio.

CHINESE

From Page 1

business and create at least 10 full-time jobs. This will give the investors and their families a chance to earn green cards.

"The Department of Commerce supports these kinds of events in behalf of the government," Maratita said, "It's a good start for infusing more investment in the CNMI by having this business or investment seminar. Hopefully the EB-5 program that Atty. Janet presented tonight provided more clear information."

"It's positive whenever anybody is trying to invest in the CNMI," Sablan said.

The group of investors was

led by Yibo Hu, general manager of the DaHeshi Entity, which recently acquired the Gold Beach Hotel in Beach Road, Garapan.

According to Hu, the investors all came from their province of Henan in China. He said most of the investors in the group have real estate and construction business.

"I just bring them here to let them know about Saipan so in the future they can either do business partner with me or they can do their own business," Xuankun Li translated for Hu.

Last fiscal year 2014, the EB-5 program of U.S. for China became unavailable around August after the maximum number of China EB-5 applicants was reached.

BSI, Cape Air pitch in on Rota relief drive

Senate President Victor C. Hocog (Ind-Rota) has initiated the delivery of relief goods to Rota on Monday.

According to Hocog, the relief operations will continue until Wednesday.

Hocog said along with other donors, help is also coming from Best Sunshine International, Ltd. and Cape Air.

According to Hocog, Cape Air has been tapped to deliver several hundred sacks of rice for Rota, which has suffered

significant damage after being hit by Typhoon Dolphin.

The full extent of the damage is still unknown.

"We are continuing relief efforts and mobilizing our staff to see what else is needed by the community," Hocog said, adding that the state of emergency for Rota has not been lifted yet.

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier released a statement saying it expects to issue a joint notice any time soon on the state of emergency

declared for Rota last May 20.

"Major efforts were made by the community of Rota to return to normalcy along with many of our responders, non-profit organization, the Rota Mayor's Office, federal partners and the administration," the statement said.

"We are working with the mayor of Rota in ensuring all aspects for restoration have been resolved, and we anticipate lifting the state of emergency within the next couple

of days. A joint notice will be issued soon."

Members of the Legislature on Friday initiated a "coin drive" for Rota.

House Speaker Joseph DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) led other lawmakers lining up on a portion of Beach Road, buckets on hand, to solicit donations from passing motorists.

According to DeLeon Guerrero, the donation drive is part of ongoing efforts to help Rota, which is still reeling from the effects of the typhoon. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

SOCIAL

From Page 1

experiment without first asking permission from WSR management.

"Basically it was a social media experiment that she's doing for a school project," said Tarkong, adding that the student has been cleared of charges.

"We're getting to the bottom of this," Tarkong said.

He said the "suspect"

found out through the media that police were looking for them so she called on Monday night and turned herself to DPS to explain.

Tarkong said he has no information yet as to how many students are involved and that they are not disclosing from what school they are from.

On Monday, police said there are three suspects: two women and one man. That day, Tarkong said police were still working on getting a de-

scription of the suspects.

NMI Crime Stoppers issued a notice on Monday night about two suspicious strangers approaching three minor children at WSR Elementary School last Thursday at 2:30pm.

One "suspect" was enticing the three minor children by the school fence line with candy, ice cream, and video games. The children were asked to follow the "suspect" into a car parked across the street. The students refused to follow and

instead notified their teacher.

WSR principal Naomi Nishimura immediately issued a notice on Friday, informing parents of this "stranger" and urged to take precautions for the safety of their children.

DPS Commissioner James C. DeLeon Guerrero also issued a statement on Monday night, disclosing, among other things, that investigators had interviewed potential witnesses in an attempt to identify the suspects.

tion that reads, "All forms of destructive military activities are prohibited in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Legislature shall enact laws necessary to enforce this section."

Further, Demapan said any form of special use "restricted air space" will create significant adverse impacts on commercial flights that service the CNMI.

"Because this has become a

major issue of contention for our people, I believe that it is most appropriate to give our people the opportunity to make their voices heard by their vote on this proposed amendment," he said.

Demapan clarified that his initiative is specific to destructive activities such as heavy live-fire training and bombing exercises.

He added that in general, the people support the military and the principles of freedom, but not the proposals that seek to cause damage to the islands and the livelihood of the people.

NMTI offers revisions to charter school bill

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

In line with some concerns from Northern Marianas College, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute has submitted revisions to a House bill that would make it a public charter school.

These revisions appear to address concerns shared by NMC over the duplicity of

roles the two institutions play in vocational or continuing education. The revised bill, or House Bill 19-4, would also drop the creation of a Higher Education Commission, as NMC has also recommended to the legislature.

In a letter to House education committee chair Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) last month, NMTI board chair John

Gonzales and president Agnes McPhetres recommended that separate legislation be developed for the creation of a Higher Education Commission.

This would simplify legislation to create NMTI as a public charter school, they wrote.

In further defining the education commission's role, Gonzales and McPhetres said this commission would be a public

entity that creates policies governing the licensing of higher education institutions in the Commonwealth.

The commission would also issue and renew these post secondary education licenses, they wrote. On top of this, the commission would issue charter school license to any future charter school.

In defining NMTI's function, they described NMTI as an educational institution to "provide training and education designed to meet the labor and economic development needs of the Commonwealth."

Further, Gonzales and McPhetres said the original bill proposes to move the general

education development program from NMC to the newly established NMTI.

But their revisions now recommend that this section of the proposed law be deleted because, "NMC's position is that the GED program should remain at NMC."

Further, they wrote, words like "vocational education, adult education, and continuing education" are not clearly defined in the bill.

They said, aside from these areas of education, the bill should focus on "career and technical education and training" and internships.

"In this regard, the goal of the currently established

[NMTI] is to provide career and technical trades education and training for those individuals who did not complete high school as well as for high school graduates who are unemployed," Gonzales and McPhetres wrote.

The original bill also gives power to the NMTI board to be the "Commonwealth Board or Commission for all federally funded vocational education programs" that the CNMI are eligible for.

But NMTI is now recommending that this authority be deleted from the bill because the CNMI governor should have the authority to designate this type of body.

Federal jury empanelled for Ada's trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday completed the jury selection in the trial of Leyda I. Ada, who is accused of conspiring with her husband to perpetrate a health care fraud exceeding \$1.7 million.

At 5:45pm yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Man-

glona empanelled 14 jurors, including two alternates. It was the second day of the jury selection process.

Manglona, however, ordered the jurors to come back on Monday morning as she needs to address other matters in the case.

Manglona ordered the parties' counsels to appear on Friday at 8:30am for a hearing on pending motions.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Garth Backe and Ross Naughton are prosecuting the case. Attorney Mark Hanson is court-appointed counsel for Ada.

Ada is faced with only three charges: conspiracy to commit laundering, money laundering, and perjury. The original indictment charged her and her husband, Melvin Ada, with 59 counts.

Melvin Ada pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.



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6 out of 10 claims in Dr. Ramsey’s lawsuit dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed the CNMI government and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. from the four claims in a lawsuit filed by Dr. Gary Ramsey, a former medical staff at CHC who is suing over alleged wrongful termination of his medical privilege.

U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy dismissed with prejudice the CNMI government and CHCC from Dr. Ramsey’s four claims: declaratory and injunctive relief—unlawful deprivation of property without due process of law; two claims of damages—unlawful deprivation of property without due process of law; and a claim of damages—unlawful deprivation of liberty and property without due process of law.

Dismissed with prejudice

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,	Civil Action No. 11-0078
Plaintiff,	
vs.	NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE
MICHAEL R. MUÑA and MILA L. MUÑA,	
Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 17th day of September, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **10th day of June, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 010 K 04, containing an area of 892 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987 and filed at the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office on August 19, 1987 as File No. 87-2911.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted
 - to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - to reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
- Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of May, 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

means Ramsey could not re-file the four claims in the future.

Kennedy also dismissed with prejudice Ramsey’s two other claims: violation of U.S. Constitution and violation of CNMI Constitution.

The dismissal of the six claims, leaves four causes of action remaining in the lawsuit: breach of contract, tortious interference with contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and liability of CNMI government.

The defendants are given 14 days to file an answer to the lawsuit.

The defendants are CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, CHCC OB/Gyn department chair Dr. Jeanolivia Grant, CHCC medical affairs director Dr. Sherleen Osman, former Department of Public Health

Volunteer group to discuss animal welfare issues

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A volunteer group that hopes to successfully address animal issues in the CNMI will hold a meeting June 6 and 7 at the Saipan Mayor’s Office Animal Shelter in Lower Base.

The June 6 meeting is at 4pm, while June 7 is at 10am.

The meeting will address issues such as learning to help the animal shelter, how to volunteer at the Saipan shelter, provide foster care to animals in need, help with events, support animal protection legislation, help get dogs off the chain, among others.

Jason Hudy, who volunteered during the two-week dog sterilization and adoption services by animal advocates and the Saipan Mayor’s office from May 19 to 29, said that members of the Humane Society are coming from Hawaii to help them set up programs.

“With all of the help we were able to spay/neuter close to 400

Secretary Joseph Kevin Vilagomez, CHCC, and the CNMI government.

Ramsey, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, asked the court to find the defendants liable to pay him damages, attorney’s fees, and court costs.

According to Woodruff, the doctor is entitled to an injunction prohibiting defendants from refusing to recognize his valid hospital privileges at CHCC.

In their motion to dismiss, defendants argued that the Commonwealth and CHCC enjoy sovereign immunity from suits filed in federal court and are not “persons” under the statute, and that they should accordingly be dismissed from this case.

Defendants also contended that Ramsey’s seventh and eight causes of action under the contracts clauses of the federal and

dogs, get almost 20 dogs adopted and two cats as well. It was a hugely successful two weeks, and if we all work together we can continue the momentum that was started to continue to make lives better for animals here on Saipan,” Hudy said.

“I’ve kind of ‘taken the lead’ in this whole process, along with two of our great volunteers over these past couple of weeks. So I’m in the process of coordinating exactly what will be happening at this meeting, setting up with the Mayor’s Office, the House of Representatives here on Saipan, the Dog Control Program here on Saipan, and the Humane Society group that will be joining us from Hawaii,” he added.

He also said that he had emailed information regarding the meeting to local volunteers during the program.

He noted that there are four areas that they wanted to target for the meeting: adoption, foster, the shelter, and outreach.

For adoption, Hudy said that

CNMI constitutions fail to state a claim because Ramsey does not allege that the Legislature passed a law impairing a contract.

In her order, Kennedy denied defendants’ motion to dismiss on sovereign immunity grounds, but granted the motion to dismiss with respect to the “persons” argument and the contracts clause claims.

Kennedy agreed with defendants’ argument that the claims based on the contracts clauses fail to state a claim because they do not allege that the Commonwealth passed a law impairing the obligation of contracts.

Kennedy said the contracts clause of the U.S. Constitution states that no state shall pass any “law impairing the obligation of contracts.”

She said the Commonwealth Constitution almost identically

the end result is to get the dogs out of the shelter including cats and kittens.

“We are going to be hitting this from several angles. We are going to have a section of the newspaper every week for featured animals. I’m trying to work on getting on TV once a week with the “Pet of the Week” or something like that. We are also seeing if we can do a mobile adoption, maybe taking animals to Street Market to make people aware. Any other ideas will be welcome as well,” he said.

For fostering, those willing to volunteer can foster an animal for a week or so, while the shelter will be having volunteers and donations over the course.

“We want to try and promote ‘Saipan Cares for Animals; Facebook page, get as many people to like that page as possible. Special events like having Animal Balance back hopefully later this year. Outreach like going into schools and educating adults and children about how to treat pets,” he said.

provides: “No law shall be made that is...a law impairing the obligation of contracts.”

The judge said to state a claim under the contracts clause, a plaintiff must not only allege that a state impaired his contract, but that it did so by legislative act.

In this case, Kennedy said Ramsey’s complaint does not allege that the Commonwealth passed any law impairing his alleged contractual relationship with CHCC.

“Because the entire basis of Ramsey’s seventh and eight claims—that CHC breached a contractual relationship by ignoring its bylaws—cannot state a cause of action under the contracts clause, the court will dismiss those claims with prejudice,” she said.

Ramsey is a physician and surgeon specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, and women’s health. He was first licensed by the Medical Board of California in 1991.

SHEFA seeking to collaborate with agencies on ‘priority fields’

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is planning to meet with different government entities and possibly business organizations to identify the needs for its incentive grant for scholars under its “priority field of study” program.

As it is right now, some board members believe that SHEFA regulations governing the priority field of study is too broad, with too many fields of study.

This grant is an incentive program that seeks to encourage Saipan students to pursue college degrees that are highly needed on the island such as education and the health care field.

However, with growing businesses and the transitioning of

Ramsey first came to work on Saipan in April of 1999. He was first licensed by the CNMI Healthcare Professions Licensing Board in 1999.

Plaintiff worked at the Commonwealth Health Center for eight years from 1999 to July of 2007. Thereafter, for two and a half years, he worked for the Department of Public Health as medical director of the Wise Women Village project, a federal grant program until September 2010.

Woodruff said that in November 2009, Ramsey applied for hospital privileges at CHC and that after a month, all the required signatures for approved of his privileges had been affixed to the application.

Woodruff said despite a clear mandate, constituting the process due Ramsey, then Public Health secretary Villagomez did not refer the approved privileges back to the Medical Executive Committee and at the same time refused to issue a letter to Ramsey confirming his privileges at CHC.

contract workers before 2019, majority of the job market will lean toward the hotel side of developments.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa said that its policy and procedure committee has not met yet to amend and update its priority field list. She was reminded by SHEFA board to contact and invite a few key partners upon their next meeting.

These include Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, Northern Marianas College, and possibly Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter.

SHEFA’s policy and procedure committee is seeking their input on the current types of field of study needed in today’s workforce.

Rasa said that one of SHEFA’s goals is to update SHEFA’s priority fields list so it corresponds with the Commonwealth workforce needs.

SHEFA’s latest snapshots on data for student majors under its programs for Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 showed that majority of the students pursued social sciences and fine arts.

Social sciences and fine arts include arts, communications, political science, psychology, social work, and journalism. For fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters, 25 percent went to social sciences and fine arts, 24 percent for education, 16 percent for medical and allied fields, 12 percent for business administration/management, 9 percent for criminal justice/law enforcement, 4 percent for computer science, 2 percent for accounting and economics, and 2 percent for tourism and hospitality.

With the new developers such as Best Sunshine International, Ltd., Alter City Group, Honest Profit, and other hotels reinvesting back for improvements; students taking up fields in hospitality, economics, tourism, and accounting are at its lowest and caters to these specific developers.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Annabelle C. Plummer) FCD-DI	
Petitioner,) CIVIL ACTION	
vs.) NO. 15-0016	
Eric D. Plummer) SUMMONS FOR	
Respondent) PUBLICATION	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner, whose address is P.O. Box 506507, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- PUBLIC COMMENTS¹**
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - Management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
- NEW BUSINESS**
 - Licensing Matters
 - Casino Key/Casino Employee License Applications
 - Spectrum Gaming
 - Hotel Registrations
- EXECUTIVE SESSION²**
- MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
VACANT PROPERTIES - PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA-RFP-002-15
APRIL 16, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY IS ACCEPTING SEALED PROPOSALS, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (THE “RFP”) AND OTHER CONTRACT PROVISIONS, FOR AWARDED A LEASE CONTRACT FOR ONE, TWO AND/OR THREE REAL PROPERTY LEASES ON AUTHORITY PROPERTY ON SAIPAN, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. THE AUTHORITY HAS THREE (3) VACANT PROPERTY LOTS AVAILABLE FOR LEASE IN AN AREA ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL.

THIS RFP IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 40-50, PROCUREMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS OF TITLE 40 OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (THE “NMIAC”). TITLE 40, INCLUDING CHAPTER 40-50-225, **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**, IS APPLICABLE TO THE PROCESS FOLLOWED BY THE RFP.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROPERTY DETAILS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR – ARRIVAL TERMINAL AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 22, 2015, BETWEEN 7:30 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M.

PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE AUTHORITY AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR – ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM ON **JUNE 8TH, 2015**.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ By: MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

AlumKnight promoted to first lieutenant



By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Inchul Ha, a 2009 Mount Carmel School alumnus, was recently promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Ha, a Logistics Officer stationed in Camp Pendleton, California, attended the University of New Mexico for four years

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Twenty-four-year-old Inchul Ha has been promoted to first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

and earned a bachelor's degree in University Studies, comprising of business, naval science, and psychology courses.

After graduation, the 24-year-old said the time leading up to his promotion was filled with many doubts and obstacles.

"When I first started out, I would have never imagined I would be where I am now. I had to work part time, take full course loads every semester, be up at 5am every day for ROTC, volunteer some weekends, and somehow find some time to have some fun," he

told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ha explained that growing up in the island community and attending the island's sole Catholic education institution were key in his full development as an individual.

"I was brought up more traditionally and was taught values and morals at an early age," he added. "Going to school in MCS we were fortunate to have several mentors in our teachers who genuinely showed interest in our success and well-being. When you strayed too far from the correct path, they were al-

ways there to guide you back. So all of this attributed to my success because it provided me with a strong platform for me to launch from."

Ha advises island youth who want to join the armed forces to conduct thorough research about their desired vocation.

"It's easy to be swayed by the commercials you see on TV and advertisements. Sometimes you just don't know what you're getting yourself into, and once you sign the dotted line, you belong to Uncle Sam," he said.

He cautions interested youth to seek guidance from experienced individuals in order to determine if the field is right for them.

More importantly, he noted, students should not change their true identity when entering the military.

"If they do decide to join, they should work very hard," he said. "It doesn't matter what branch you go into but hard work is always noticed and rewarded if it is genuine."

Police chief pleads for more money for 'underfunded' DPS

By JOEL PINAROC
Joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of the Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said he is "begging" lawmakers to give his department the necessary budget to address the many needs of the Commonwealth.

Guerrero on Thursday presented to the Legislature a \$7.2-million budget for DPS.

But the proposed DPS budget is significantly higher than the \$4.5 million proposal from the government.

"I'm not just asking, I'm begging," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that "there are just way too many demands and how can we meet these demands if we do not have the resources?"

In the budget presentation, the DPS said it is earmarking a big chunk of the budget, about \$5.1 million, for personnel, and \$1.6 million for operations.

Deleon Guerrero said he has also requested budget for 20 more police officers.

At one point during the hearing, a frustrated Deleon Guerrero said until now, the DPS still has no legal counsel, emphasizing the sorry state of the department.

He also cited the need for a certified counselor to provide psychological intervention, confidential counseling, dealing with traumatic incidents, and re-integrating officers after active military service, among others.

Deleon Guerrero specifically mentioned San Antonio and Koblerville as needing more police patrol presence.

"How can we respond and calm down those fears in those areas if we don't have enough officers?" Deleon Guerrero said.

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said lawmakers hear Deleon Guerrero's plea for more budget.

Sablan also gave his personal assurance that the committee will find ways on how to best address the DPS needs.

Underfunded

During the budget hearing, Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said he is "concerned" that the government continues to underfund the DPS considering the very important role the department has in the CNMI.

Yumul said he has reviewed budget allocations and requirements of the DPS in the previous fiscal years, and according to him, some of the requested budget that were not given range from "hundreds of thousands of dollars, to sometimes close to a million."

"We have to give what the DPS needs," Yumul said, noting that even with a supplemental budget, it seems funds cannot get to the DPS because government often "overspends."

Office of Management and Budget chief Vicky Villagomez said what the government wants is to provide "flexibility" for the DPS and allow the department to shift resources to critical areas.

Villagomez said the bottomline is that the government is still in the "red" and that there are critical areas—such as the \$30 million in retirees' pension and the 25 percent of the total budget for the Public School System, among others—that the government is mandated to fulfill.

"Everybody needs funding," Villagomez said.

Emergency power interruption today in Garapan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will conduct an emergency power interruption today, June 3, to install a meter in Garapan.

At 5:30am, CUC will temporarily interrupt power to customers in the vicinity of Coral Tree Ave., Palm St., Paseo De Marianas, Date St., and Orchid St. in Garapan to allow safe access to crews who will install a meter in the area.

Installation efforts are expected to take approximately one hour to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

CUC customers in the same area were also temporarily without power Tuesday at 3pm, when crews removed a burnt meter socket in the same location. Work on the project took less than an hour to complete and service was restored to the

area immediately afterwards.

For more information, please visit our website at www.cucgov.org or contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (CUC)

Ogumoro bill wants public schools to prepare FY budgets

Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan) has offered a bill requiring public schools, including elementary and secondary schools in the CNMI, to prepare their respective fiscal year budgets.

House Bill 19-17, or the "Public Schools Budget Authority Act" also requires these budgets to be incorporated in the budget of the Public School System commissioner and the State Board of Education on an annual basis for submission to the Legislature for appropriation.

Ogumoro, in the recent budget hearings for several

departments including PSS, emphasized that this information will help the Legislature when it comes to determining the budget requests of the each department.

In her bill, Ogumoro said student learning will improve by having each public school prepare a fiscal year budget, and "upon is approval and appropriation by the Legislature, such funds are used pursuant to the approved budget."

The fiscal year budget for the public schools also includes all sources of funds and expenditure.

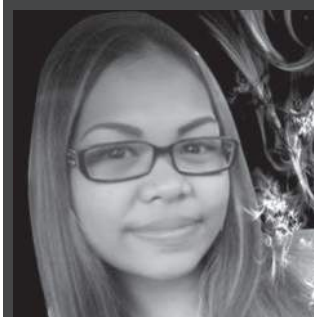
The expenditure authority

of the funds will be the school principal of the public school, the bill noted.

Another key element of the bill is that a public school's budget will be separate and apart from that of the PSS commissioner and the State Board of Education. "Therefore, funds approved and appropriated by the Legislature pursuant to the school's budget submission shall be disbursed only upon the request of the school principals."

Ogumoro's bill is set to be introduced at a House session on Tinian this Thursday. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 22nd birthday to Richelle Janelle Cabrera Borja! May your day be filled with lots of love and surprises! Enjoy on your special day! We love you!! From Mom, Eugene, Jenn (Jake), Rj, Erica (Jr II, Jr III), and Shawn (Joyce, Samirah and Zeze Boi).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



On his way home from work on the night of May 27, 2015, Nestor Tusi stopped by at Lao Market in Chalan Kanoa to get himself something for dinner. Using his spare change, he purchased one Instant Scratchies Lottery Ticket - hoping to try his luck for the fun of it. Tusi held on the ticket until the following day, when he finally scratched the ticket on the night of May 28, 2015, he was shocked to see that it was a winning ticket of \$1000. He received his cash prize on the afternoon of May 29, 2015. On the photo above is the owner of Lao Market receiving the cash prize on behalf of the lucky winner. There are more prizes to win, NMASA would like to bid good luck to all the players!

Lee, Aldan top GCA's graduating class

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy graduated 19 high school students last Friday at the school's chapel. The ceremony, themed "Moving Forward," greatly emphasized the importance of a Christian education in today's society.

"We are so proud of each and every one of you. You all worked hard and deserve the best life has to offer," school principal Beth Ann Nunez told the graduates. Nunez also expressed her gratitude to the graduates' parents, who she said remains supportive of everything the school pursues.

GCA's faculty, staff, and board bestowed several awards on its newest generation of



THOMAS MANGLONA II

Grace Christian Academy's graduating Class of 2015 performs a song number during their graduation ceremony last week at the school's chapel.

alumni in the three-hour ceremony.

Among the recipients was senior class president Leah Marianne Moreno Fabila, who received the school's most

prestigious award, the Eagle Award, which recognized her for possessing good work ethic, moral character, and faithfulness. Fellow graduate and Student Council vice president

Zena Demapan received the Governor's Leadership Award.

Student Council president Dong Ha Lee attained the highest grade point average throughout his high school ca-



THOMAS MANGLONA II

Richard Aldan, Grace Christian's salutatorian, poses for a photo with his mother and father.



THOMAS MANGLONA II

Graduate Leah Marianne Moreno Fabila poses for a photo with her parents after receiving the Eagle Award.



THOMAS MANGLONA II

Grace Christian Academy valedictorian Dong Ha Lee poses for a photo with his parents during last Friday's ceremony

reer among his peers and was named as the class valedictorian in last week's commencement exercise.

In his remarks, Lee ruminated on the many good experiences at Grace Christian Academy.

"When I first became a freshman in high school, I wished that time would fly by faster so I could become older and explore the world outside of Grace Christian Academy. However, as graduation day drew nearer, I realized that I was going to miss every single thing about high school."

Lee, who will be attending a university in South Korea, thanked his parents and sibling for their unconditional love and support. He said, "I will never forget the time and effort you put into me, just to give me the best."

"I wouldn't have made it through high school without the encouragement, friendship, and guidance from a lot of people," he added. "...They say we have to part our ways now, but I know that we will meet somewhere."

National Honor Society president and class salutatorian Richard Joseph Tudela Aldan, who will be attending Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, echoed Lee's message, saying that he and his peers are eternally grateful to their parents and school.

"And now, for my fellow graduates. I have one simple statement for you: It is okay to be afraid of the unknown," he said in his address. "With the help of your Creator and the will to succeed, I am confident that you will be able to turn the worst of road trips into the greatest of adventures."

GCA board chair Rev. Raymond Kinsella served as the event's keynote speaker.

In his address, Kinsella urged the students to never lose a sense of child-like joy in their lives, embrace wisdom and knowledge, and stay true to their faith as they pursue different avenues after high school.

He said, "When you leave Grace Christian Academy, you will experience many things. It is our hope that we have taught you well enough so that you remain strong in your faith in whatever your vocation calls you to do."

Dog sterilization clinic to be held twice a year

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite some problems, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the two-week dog sterilization and adoption program was very successful.

Apatang said they have already met with Animal Balance about a second dog sterilization program in October.

Henry Hofschneider, special assistant to the Saipan Mayor's Office, said that Animal Balance plans to hold the dog sterilization program twice a year.

"They were very happy that the first time was successful. It was unfortunate that one veterinarian fell ill, but we managed to keep going with only one veterinarian. We held a farewell and appreciation dinner and it was successful and we can't thank them enough," Hofschneider said.

"Once we start communicating after they settle down, we will discuss again about the next services they will provide.

» Feral cats will be addressed if funding is available

Dog program manager Spencer Marchadesch and his team worked very hard during the two-week program and sometimes they would stay late to clean up," he added.

Apatang thanked the more than 20 volunteers from Saipan, Guam, Japan, and other areas that helped the program become a success.

"We would also like to thank our sponsors, donors, Humane Society U.S. Hawaii's Inga Gibson, Humane Society Inter-

national Kelly Coladarci, and Animal Balance for their contributions," Hofschneider said.

The dog sterilization program was held from May 19 to 29 to address the dog population problem on Saipan, which has over 21,000 dogs based on an HIS survey in 2014.

Feral cats

Meanwhile, Animal Balance founder and director Emma Clifford said that the feral cat population on Saipan can be addressed at a later time and if there's available funding.

Feral cats have been a minor problem to community members, but pose a threat to several of the endangered birds on Saipan, especially in the territories they are colonizing.

"Although feral cats do not pose a danger to humans or the community, it is understandable that not everyone enjoys having them in their yards. Instead, feral cats should be humanely trapped, neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their outdoor home," Clifford said.

To do this, they would have to set up traps. However, it is expensive to ship cat traps to the CNMI, but Clifford is hoping that if there is available space

for the cages to be shipped to Saipan, then the feral cat issue on island can be addressed.

"The problem with feral cats is that they are in a territory and will reproduce in that certain area. What we do is trap it, sterilize, and then return them back," she said.

Reports blame feral cats as one of the main causes for the decline in the population of the Mariana crow, an endangered bird indigenous to Guam and Rota.

Marchadesch noted that the Mayor's Office has actually thought about feral cats and will be speaking to Apatang about the issue.

TASTE OF MARIANAS CHEFS COMPETITION

HANMI lauds Saipan's junior hotel chefs

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands lauded Saipan's junior chefs in awarding the winners of the Certified Angus Beef® Chefs Competition at Saturday's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

Six HANMI member hotels participated in the event, with Nestor De Vera and Eduardo Gabito of Fiesta Resort & Spa capturing first place with their entry Tamales Beef Albondigas in Noni Salsa Sauce. In second place were Rommel Villaviza and Arnold Capuli of Mariana Resort & Spa. Finishing in third place were Chelsea Cummings and Hannah Strong of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Our annual Chefs Competition is an excellent opportunity to encourage our up-and-



Junior chefs Nestor De Vera and Eduardo Gabito of Fiesta Resort & Spa won 1st place in the Certified Angus Beef® Chefs Competition on May 30, 2015, at the Taste of the Marianas. The team won \$500 from HANMI and in-kind prizes.



Junior chefs Rommel Villaviza and Arnold Capuli of Mariana Resort & Spa won 2nd place in the Certified Angus Beef® Chefs Competition on May 30, 2015, at the Taste of the Marianas. The team won \$300 from HANMI and in-kind prizes. From left are judge Alex Sablan, an event organizer, Villaviza, Capuli, HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, Kanoa Resort GM Wendi Herring, judge Michael Johnson, judge Curtis Dancoe, and judge Ken Stewart.



Judge Ken Stewart samples the entry of Mariana Resort & Spa in the Chefs' competition sponsored by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and Certified Angus Beef® on May 30, 2015.



Tamales Beef Albondigas in Noni Salsa Sauce entered by Fiesta Resort & Spa won 1st place in the Certified Angus Beef® Chefs Competition on May 30, 2015, at the Taste of the Marianas.



The Trio of Almondigas entry of Hyatt Regency Saipan won 3rd place in the Chefs Competition on May 30, 2015.

coming chefs to showcase the results of their training," said HANMI Chairwoman Gloria Cavanagh. "It's also an opportunity for them to develop and test their creativity as chefs as they prepare their recipes."

In a nod to the Marianas' rich Spanish history, this year's theme for the Chefs Competi-

tion was "Marianas Albondigas," featuring Certified Angus Beef® Chuck Ground. Chefs also created their own fresh sides that will include local starches such as breadfruit, sweet potatoes, yam, or plantains. Entries were judged on appearance of the beef, tenderness/texture, and presentation of theme.

"I have to admit that among the participating hotels, the Chefs Competition is also a little about bragging rights," Cavanagh added. "We're very proud of our culinary leadership and staff, and we strongly encourage young people of the Commonwealth to consider a career in culinary. HANMI ho-

tels need good chefs!"

The winners received cash prizes (\$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place) from HANMI and Certified Angus Beef® products.

"Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods takes great pride in organizing the Certified Angus

Beef® Chefs Competition every year," said general manager Jay Santos. "Usually, the executive chefs for the hotels get all of the attention, so it's nice to see the junior chefs come out and compete with their peers. As distributors of the very best brand of beef in the Mariana Islands, it is also an opportunity

for us to support the very hotels and chefs that we partner with every day."

HANMI celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and has over 1,600 employees. The winning recipe is posted on the anniversary Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HANMI30. (HANMI)

Motherhead/Fatheread partners with BoH to promote financial literacy

CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread Family Literacy Program continues to promote financial literacy through partnerships with the Bank of Hawaii.

Bank of Hawaii officers Joanne Aldan and Herminio Matsumoto presented at the San Vicente Elementary School from 5pm to 7pm last April. Close to 20 participants attended the seminar at the SVES Home of the Canaries.

To cap off the festivities, parent trainer Debbie Canete's Adult Course celebrated their completion ceremony earlier that day. School principal Paulette Sablan and vice principal, Ana Guerrero assisted CNMI Motherhead program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero in recognizing and congratulating the parents and children.

Graduating parents include Didith Pacia, Evonne Cabrera,



School principal Paulette Sablan and vice principal Ana Guerrero assisted CNMI Motherhead program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero in recognizing and congratulating the parents and children that graduated from parent trainer Debbie Canete's Adult Course.

Jack Camacho, Rhonda Gross, Eva Moises, Michele Joab, Anita Perez, and Jenny DL-Guerrero.

Story Exploring instructor Ignacia Reyes proudly congratulated Arvin Peter Honjias, Matt Pacia, Bryce Camacho, Martha

Cabrera, Omari Joab, Daniel Joab, Theo Joab, Phoenix Gross, Elyna Deleon Guerrero, and Victoria Torres for successfully completing the Story Exploring Course.

CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread would also like to extend a great big thank you to the San Vicente School, administration, and the families of the school for warmly inviting CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread into their classes.

The CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread is administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. For a summer schedule of the next Motherhead/Fatheread program available near you, contact 235-7319, email cnmimotherhead@gmail.com, or go to the Facebook page of CNMI Motherhead Fatheread. Come visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/cnmimotherheadfatheread/>. (PR)

Saipan Community School Honor Roll list for 4th Quarter

**6TH GRADE
Principal's List (4.00)**
Jason Sablan

"A" Honor 3.50-3.99 (No C's)
Maxine Rabago
Mark Nam
Mateo Guerrero
Seung Ju Lee

"B" Honor 3.00-3.49 (No D's)
James Park
John Hong
Vinson Bacani
Oliver Lee
Sang Hyun Lee
Miku Torres
Annie Ren

**7TH GRADE
Principal's List (4.00)**
Kate Ishida
Iris Lee
Esther Park

"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99 (No C's)
Nan Xie
Ken Song-Toyokawa
Carol Lee

Ye Lee Cha
Tomjayson Cayetano

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49 (No D's)
Seo Yeon Woo
Roderick J. Pierce
Rovin Bacani
Maruf Mamun
Jeffrey Seo
Desrei Camacho
Jon Paul Sablan

**8TH GRADE
Principal's List (4.00)**
Mimi Sakano

"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99 (No C's)
Ellen Lee
Rae Min
Annabelle Sablan
Celina Wu
Vincent Tudela

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49 (No D's)
Sun Je Lee
Alex Chen
Kevin Zhen
Alan Yu

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Wal-Mart's clout buoys animal welfare

When the giant retailer Wal-Mart recently announced that it would ask all suppliers of fresh and frozen meat, deli, dairy and egg products to its Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores in the U.S. to abide by sweeping new guidelines for the humane treatment of farm animals and the reduction of antibiotic use in raising them, animal welfare groups declared that this would prompt nothing short of a sea change in animal agriculture.

Indeed, Wal-Mart has taken a significant and sophisticated position on farm animal welfare, calling for suppliers to report and take disciplinary action in cases of animal abuse and to replace cramped housing units that don't let animals move around or socialize. The latter change would eliminate battery cages for hens, gestation crates for pregnant sows and veal calf crates. California is one of a handful of states that outlaws such housing, but Wal-Mart's guidelines could push more suppliers across the country to adopt the new standards.

Suppliers are also being asked to stop procedures such as tail docking, de-horning and castration without pain management and to make sure animals are rendered insensible to pain before slaughter. The guidelines ask suppliers to provide animal welfare reports to Wal-Mart and to the public.

A Wal-Mart spokesman said its new position is a response to company research that found 77 percent of Wal-Mart shoppers would increase their trust in a retailer that practiced humane treatment of livestock, and 66 percent would be more likely to shop at such a retailer.

Wal-Mart is specifically calling this a position statement, not a mandate with a deadline for compliance, which raises the question of whether suppliers will follow through. The company insists that collaboration, not strong-arming, is its standard approach to effecting change among its suppliers and that this has been successful time and again. As evidence, it cites its work with suppliers of laundry detergents nearly a decade ago to decrease packaging and water waste; today, concentrated detergents dominate the aisles of Wal-Marts as well as all other stores. The company also worked with lightbulb and refrigerator suppliers to create more energy efficient refrigerated grocery cases — now an industry standard.

Of course, Wal-Mart is the largest grocery retailer in the nation, dwarfing its closest competitors. So even a request to its suppliers carries the weight of a mandate.

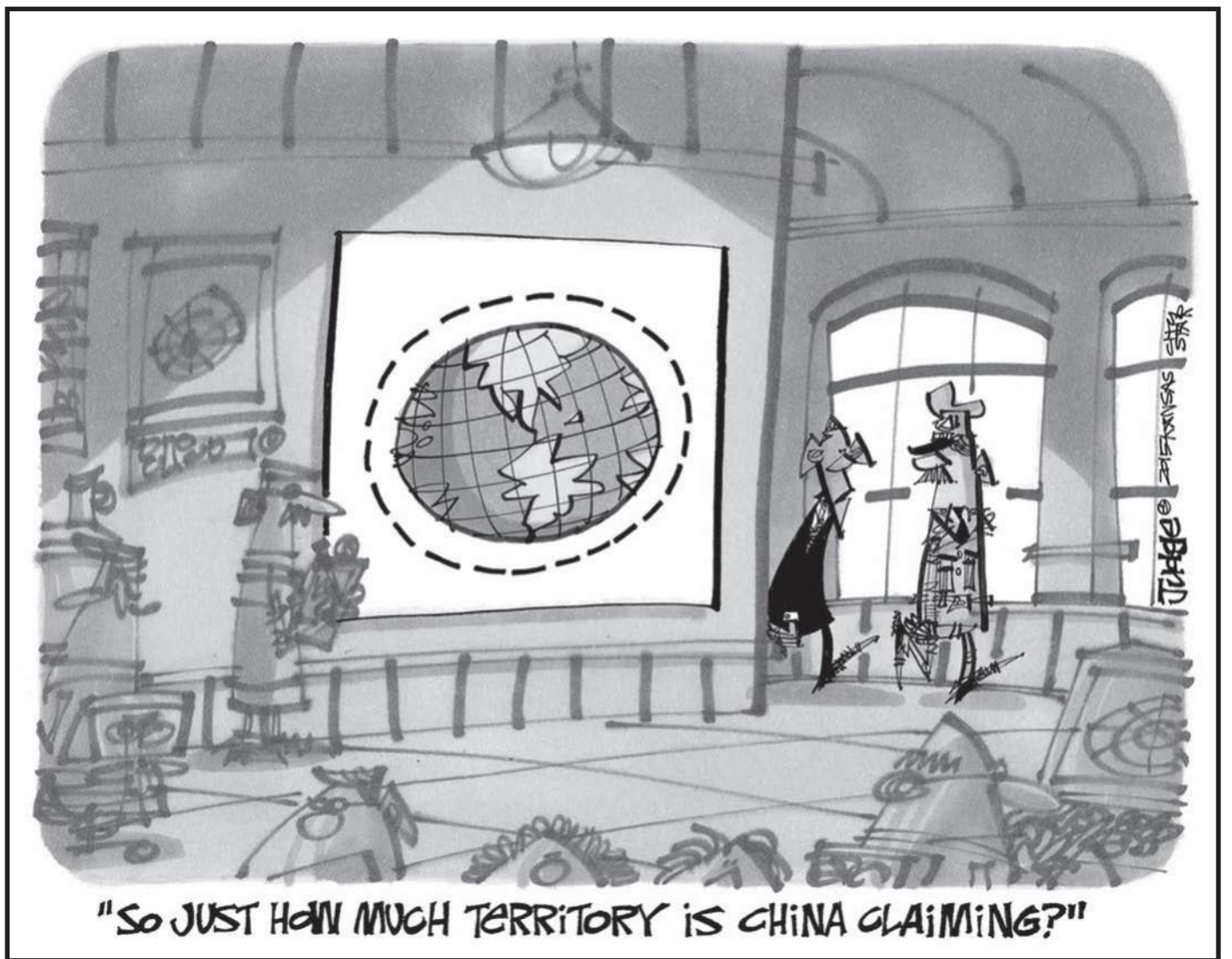
The business of factory farming is already changing as food services and retailers adopt more humane standards. The food services company Aramark says the 30 million eggs it will buy in the U.S. this year will come only from cage-free hens. Smithfield, the world's large hog producer, plans to complete its conversion from gestation crates to group housing for pregnant sows by the end of 2017.

But not all animal product suppliers have made the often costly leap to humane housing. Even in states where it's the law, businesses have resisted. Egg producers unsuccessfully lodged four lawsuits against California's requirements that in-state farmers provide roomier housing for egg-laying hens and that out-of-state suppliers follow the same regulations if they want to sell their eggs here. And animal welfare groups contend that many egg producers in California are not effectively meeting the new standards. How many suppliers will make changes they're not required to make?

The key issue now is whether Wal-Mart's goals are more than merely aspirational. Will the company monitor suppliers to see whether animals have more space? The least it can do is make sure that egg farmers in California are complying with the law.

Wal-Mart executives have clearly seen that this is the direction in which the industry is moving and it's what the public wants. But the company may need to nudge some of its suppliers to embrace that new vision.

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Suffer not the little children

One of the Bible's scriptural phrases I grew up with, depicted in the blue-eyed hair-groomed flowing robe-bedecked Palestinian Jesus' words was, "Suffer not the little children to come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The *kingdom of heaven* refers to the wholeness of life, aka "holiness," the original meaning of a widely misused term since utilized to refer to a hokey-pokey other world in another existence. But history or exegesis is not our discourse this day.

I spent a whole Saturday not too long ago with three young kids, a 9-year old boy, a 6-year old girl, and a young boy just over 3 years. It was a wonder-filled day with the energy and wide-eyed enthusiasm of the young through the woods at a farm on the verdant leeward side of Mt. Tapuchao.

We gathered star apples with me climbing a tree (not a smart move), reached for ripening guavas still hard but before the birds pecked on them, and gathered *naranghiita* (oranges) whose tartness equals that of my girlfriend any day, and that is a lemonade of tart!

We ended up with coconuts, our host splitting the ones that already germinated, devouring the bulbous white stuff where the coco water used to be. We gutted the young ones for their tender flesh and the old ones for their flavorful juice that soaked some of the mature coco meat flavor into the tasteful fluid.

We gathered the exposed taro roots growing under the trees even as the father and an uncle of the children bush-cut the growth on the slope, to clear the fully planted field of healthy red taro of competing grass, and coming down the slope full of leaves that looked like rhubarbs from purple taro leaves ready for the pot.

By late afternoon on the way down from the hills to the CK shore, the youngest one took just a minute before falling asleep on someone's lap on the passenger side of the truck's cab while the rest of us men folks endured the bumpy ride on the back of the pick-up. Lucky we did not get any rain even as it intermittently showered up the hills but skipped the plain and the sunny shore. We came down dry, and not surprisingly, well tanned, with a bunch of happy kids.

Sunday the following day proved a little different in my neighborhood. The acoustics on my apartment complex loudly amplifies couples' tiffs if they do not keep their voices down. A young kid in the apartment across my unit wailed for two hours. Concerned that one of the neighbors might call 911, I went over to locate the vocal outcry in case he needed help while left behind to the care of indifferent elder siblings as employed Mom and Pop attended to their tasks.

But there was an adult voice interjecting on the tot's demands, so I left them to themselves. I did not mind the intrusive but prolonged vocalization exercise nor the parenting style of who I presumed

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



to be the mother (could be a grandma or the maid) just letting a child "tear-out," but laws of the land do make sure that a child is not abused, and the loud shrieks were a bit too close for comfort on this side of the law!

A girl in my previous SVES sixth grade class, daughter to good friends who I had known since the girl graduated from the crib, liked to talk to the person behind her in class while I was giving work instructions upfront. One day, I walked over to her desk with an uncle-like gesture to pat her head. She loudly turned around and shouted: "Don't you dare touch me!"

I learned my lesson on the state of public display of affection and/or reprobation that day! I was rather shocked by the transformation of one who was once a cuddle on our lap. It may have been all right earlier, or elsewhere, but not in America circa 2007.

In my neighborhood where a child vocalized for two hours, the tot's wail finally subsided. He might have reached his limits, or finally got his way on mother's attention. I did not notice any 911 uniformed emergency personnel but I made a note to remind the office to alert the occupants of the sensitive acoustics of the buildings, and to remind tenants to act properly, if only for the sake of avoiding the neighbors' pry on private matters.

Today's pop psychology echoes the Zoroastrian conflict between good and evil. Meant to be therapeutic, it focuses on condemning aberrant behaviors (evil), adhering to diagnoses of what could go wrong (cautionary scares), proceeding from fear and trepidation to avoid it, rather than bravely launching into a lively exercise of willful freedom to innovate and to create what others had not done before! "Abnormal psychology," we call it. Normal does not get the limelight; the abnormal does.

Christianity never started with the value of the person, it is said. Rather, we started from the "unworthiness of the sinner" and that starting point set the stage for the glorification of human shame in Christian theology. I genuflect to that.

Children are born winners and free at the starting gate but we condemn them to be «worthless until saved». A regrettable choice, but the voice of sanity says it well: «suffer not the little children ... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!»

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ancestral Puntan Muchot

Our sixth sense or “intuition” gives us the instant sense or ability to know immediately what happened without reasoning. It’s a very powerful sense that comes from the heart.

When it hits I usually engage thoughtful meditation to ensure I’m within my element to understand what has just come my way. I had to do this each time I visit Puntan Muchot. The place seems unsettled in the sense that I’ve never felt comfortable whenever I visit it. There’s a certain aura that I can’t come to terms with.

When visiting the place, I always feel the powerful presence of ancestral spirits in salutary and highly respectful common knowledge conversation. I wasn’t afraid. They’ve prepared me for it. There weren’t any faces only their powerful presence. It was a very humbling experience.

Through their voice I was a beneficiary of traditional history that the U-shaped shoreline isn’t just another pristine beachfront but the home of ancestral fishermen. Do they want it preserved for posterity? It was a lingering query.

Puntan Muchot is situated near the port of entry where inter-island or global trade and commerce must have taken place in yesteryears. With the sakman, the fishermen traverse the open ocean some 500 miles out. The distant fishing confirms traditional use of the waters around us. The sacred venue must have been their landing ground occupied daily by their families in thatched houses built in the area.

Be that as it may, I recall in the late ’50s when I used to frequent the shore with my paternal grandpa who used to fish (throw net or talaya) around it. I’d tag along gathering juvenile fish he’s shaken off his fish net. He even taught me how to scale them with sand. I’d then place them in my coconut basket (lagua’) then collect the rest.

It has sentimental cultural value. It was a place where families used to haul pull-nets catching fish for family sustenance many late afternoons as late as the eighties. The entire clan showed up to help. Sadly, it’s no longer what it used to be.

Today, there are large fish on the sand with oil all over their bodies we call tourists. Most of the prime beachfront land has gone for purposes other than indigenous enhancement. Notice the scarcity of beaches we used to frequent now limited to Pappau, Kilili, and San Antonio or beaches on the windward side

of the island? Aren’t beaches an integral part of our way of life here? Ever heard of fishing?

Occasionally, I’d visit the venue just to sit along the shore and let tiny waves wet my feet while the breeze whips in from across the channel. While sitting under shady trees rain pours down from the heavens while my face is pelted with huge grain of wind-driven

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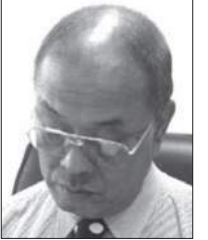
Through their voice I was a beneficiary of traditional history that the U-shaped shoreline isn’t just another pristine beachfront but the home of ancestral fishermen. Do they want it preserved for posterity? It was a lingering query.

rain. As the tentacles of colorful sunset disappears out west so does Managaha Island across the channel.

The beach is what makes a way of life on an island not cement walls in urban jungles. It’s part and whole of our experience as islanders. Slowly, though, its use by islanders has faded into the sunset.

Puntan Muchot is famous for its spirits that still roam the place. I

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

should know for I saw some very unusual incidents in and out of the old KJQR Radio Station. A can rolling, fine; but a can standing up, nah! It must be paranormal. I was scurrying into the station.

Perhaps the powerful ancestral presence was meant for those who are willing to listen. I heard their message. It wasn’t physical but spiritual. I could mentally picture their shiny bodies unloading fish against the glare of the sunset. I left at dusk fully wary now of the traditional significance of Puntan Muchot.

Deceptive Security

An intuitive echo deep in my conscience sends an ominous message of destruction on a steady march towards the NMI. It keeps echoing especially during the calm hours of the night.

It deals with land and how its sale—over the next two to three years—would gradually displace the indigenous people right here at home. It resembles silent water that runs deep. Is this an issue to be concerned about?

I hear the rustling of crispy envelopes changing hands. The deepening economic condition would accelerate land sale as families deal with stagnant wages forced by a highly depressive economy. As more land is consummated the quicker we enter a very troubled future.

It sets up the stage for landlessness followed by the more egregious social malignancy of homelessness. Many would eventually be living in the fringes of a community they once called home. Perplexing how it would pan out as the landscape of indigenous traditional values slowly fades in our rearview mirror in favor of deceptive security in new riches.

US strategy, not Iraqi ‘will’ to blame for recent Islamic State successes

After the Islamic State captured the key Iraqi city of Ramadi last week, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter blamed the stunning loss on “a failure of the Iraqi forces to fight.” Allied air strikes were “effective,” he said, but the Iraqis lacked the will to confront the Islamic State.

That careless TV sound bite sums up why the administration’s efforts to degrade and defeat the Islamic State are stalling. You’d never know from Carter’s complaint that U.S. tactical and strategic errors, including an ineffective air campaign, contributed mightily to the debacle.

On a trip to Iraq last month, during which I spoke with tribal sheikhs and officials from Anbar province (in which Ramadi sits), these errors were painfully apparent.

Here are a couple of the most glaring reasons for the loss of Ramadi, which, if not addressed, will permit the Islamic State threat to grow.

First, and most obvious, is the U.S. failure to adequately help Sunni Iraqis who want to fight the Islamic State. Nearly all the Iraqi territory the jihadi group has seized lies in provinces such as Anbar and Nineveh, where the population is almost entirely Sunni Muslim. One big reason Ramadi fell was that U.S. policy has failed to help those Sunnis fight back.

Some Sunni tribal leaders at first welcomed the Islamic State as a preferable alternative to the previous Shiite sectarian prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki. But many Sunni tribal leaders and politicians opposed the Islamic State from the beginning, and others, chafing under the jihadis’ rule, now want to oust them.

Yet U.S. strategy has failed to help the Sunni fighters best placed to drive the jihadis out.

The administration recognizes that the Islamic State cannot be defeated without the buy-in of Sunni tribes. The Iraqi army cannot do it, and sending Iran-backed Shiite militias to do the job will only increase sectarian bloodshed.

As President Barack Obama told the Atlantic Monthly last week:

“There’s no doubt that in the Sunni areas, we’re going to have to ramp up not just training, but also commitment, and we better get Sunni tribes more activated than they currently have been.”

Well, what is the president waiting for?

The U.S. program for helping Sunni fighters in Anbar province, many of whom fought alongside American troops against al-Qaida during the last decade, has been incoherent. U.S. military officers are struggling hard to make it work, but have not been given the tools.

Sunni tribal forces have no clear leadership or mission, in large part because the Iraqi government has refused to authorize a national guard system in which they could form provincial fighting units. The Obama administration has failed to use its leverage either to squeeze Baghdad to endorse a national guard or to provide the tribal fighters with the weapons they need. U.S. officers are stretched thin and have trained only a small number of tribesmen.

In addition, the tribes have been given only a limited supply of light weapons by the government to confront the Islamic State fighters in armored vehicles fielding heavy artillery and wielding truck bombs.

“The government left us by ourselves to fight ISIS,” I was told by Ahmed Sajer Jasim, a sheikh of the Malahma, who live between Ramadi and the Islamic State-controlled town of Fallujah. “We were the first to stand against ISIS, and we asked for help but nobody came,” he said, using the acronym commonly used to refer to the Islamic State.

“The government promised a lot,” said Sheikh Ziyad Mnajed al-Suleiman, who comes from Ramadi, “but it was all empty words. If the Americans assisted them, all the tribes would fight back.”

But effective American assistance would require embedding special-forces operatives with the Sunni tribes to help coordinate their fight. It would require providing them with intelligence and better weapons. It would also require the administration to lean on Baghdad to assure Sunnis they had a future inside Iraq.

So far there’s no sign that Obama is willing to invest the energy

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

that is needed (and I don’t mean ground troops, but I do mean more resources and more attention). Without that White House focus, the Islamic State problem will grow worse.

The second most obvious flaw in the administration’s strategy concerns U.S. air strikes. One reason Ramadi fell was because U.S. strikes on the Islamic State came too late and couldn’t hit key targets, such as truck bombs that broke through Iraqi military defenses. Iraqis are bewildered that U.S. pilots can’t stop the Islamic State caravans of truck bombs traveling on open roads.

Talk about a sand-storm hampering the pilots is another excuse for inaction. The real problem: The administration has refused to permit U.S. advisers or forward air controllers to embed with Iraqi units, which means that the pilots lack sufficient ground intelligence and, as a result, U.S. air sorties are often ineffective. News reports say that 75 percent of U.S. air combat missions in Iraq and Syria return to base without firing a weapon or dropping a bomb.

I could go on listing the flaws in the U.S. strategy — such as the lack of any plan for Syria — but the biggest flaw lies elsewhere. It revolves around whether the White House is committed to fighting the jihadis in a way that will produce results.

To use Ash Carter’s term, it is a question of the “will to fight” the Islamic State. But it is not the Iraqis’ will. It is Obama’s that is in question, and the verdict is still out.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲85° ▼76°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼76°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼76°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends east-northeastward from near 7N130E To a tropical disturbance centered south-southeast of Guam near 8N145E then continues east-southeastward to end near EQ170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across Palau and portions of Yap state within 180 miles of a line from 5N133E to 9N137E. Upper-level divergence northeast of the disturbance is combining with the trough to produce scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas and across Pohnpei state within 220 miles of a line from 15N149E to 10N157E to 1N157E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line from 13N155E to 10N162E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near and east of Majuro east of a line from 8N173E to 6N171E to 3N176E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Thundershowers	▲61	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼72
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲95	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
New York	Rain	▲60	▼54
Osaka	Rain	▲75	▼62
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼51
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼60
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼67
Salem	Showers	▲62	▼50
San Francisco	Fog	▲65	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼57
Tokyo	Rain	▲76	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲69	▼62

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
10:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:47 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	7:15 PM	6:06 AM
Thursday	8:10 PM	6:59 AM
Friday	9:05 PM	7:55 AM
Saturday	9:57 PM	8:53 AM
Sunday	10:48 PM	9:51 AM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 28, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily		
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7		
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6		
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6								
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM			PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM		
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM		
						UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:45pm+1	5 via GUM		
						UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM			UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:45pm+1	5, 6 via GUM		
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM			UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM								

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 1Q 2015

FHB: Saipan sales volume up 4.30 percent**OIA releases \$3.4M in Compact funding for Marshall Islands**

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs this week released to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) Ministry of Finance U.S. Compact grant payments totaling \$3,412,800. These payments included Compact Sector Grants for the month of May, the FY 2014 Supplemental Education Grants, and grants under the Enwetak Food & Agriculture Program. The breakdown of these payments is as follows:

■ RMI Education Sector Grant	\$861,000
■ RMI Health Sector Grant	\$611,000
■ Kwajalein Environmental Impact Grant	\$20,000
■ Ebeye Special Needs Education Grant	\$210,000
■ Ebeye Special Needs Health Grant	\$164,000
■ FY 2014 Supplemental Education Grant	\$1,446,800
■ Enwetak Food & Agriculture Program	\$100,000
Total:	\$3,412,800

Compact grants provided by the United States to the Republic of the Marshall Islands are pre-determined through the bilateral Joint Economic Management Finance and Accountability Committee (JEMFAC) meetings between the United States Government and the Marshall Islands government as established under the Compact of Free Association. The Compact provides approximately 60 percent of the RMI's annual budget for health, education, and infrastructure development and maintenance. The close relationship between the U.S. Government and the Republic of the Marshall Islands is enshrined in the Compact of Free Association, under which the United States also provides guaranteed financial assistance over a 20-year period in exchange for full international defense authority and responsibilities.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas carries out the administrative responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior in coordinating federal policy for the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs. (**OIA**)

USS Topeka arrives in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—USS *Topeka* (SSN 754) arrived at its new homeport of U.S. Naval Base Guam last May 29.

Topeka is the fourth submarine assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron (CSS) 15 as part of the Navy's long-range plan to put the most advanced and capable units forward. Prior to arriving in Guam, *Topeka* completed an engineering overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N.H.

"From bow to stern she has been completely upgraded (and is) the most technologically advanced submarine we have," CSS-15 Commodore Capt. Jeffrey Grimes said. "She brings a new level of sophistication and fire power that we need in the Pacific."

Topeka and its crew were greeted by family members as they filed off the submarine. During brief remarks, *Topeka* Commanding Officer Cmdr. David Lammers said the *Topeka*'s arrival would have a positive impact on the local community in terms of economic benefits and security, but that Guam will have a big effect on his crew too.

"Guam is the Navy's best kept secret," he said. "Once they get here, you can't get them to leave."

In April 2013, then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced that a fourth Los Angeles-class submarine would be homeported in Guam in an effort to enhance the Navy's forward presence as it continues to repurpose its forces. The decision to homeport *Topeka* in Guam brings that vision to fruition.

"This is an overall rebalance of the naval forces into the Pacific, so picking up another naval submarine to Guam gives us more capability to continue to reinforce our partners, provide a level of conventional deterrence and support the ongoing efforts that we have," Grimes said.

Topeka, commissioned Oct. 21, 1989, is the third ship of the United States Navy named for the city of Topeka, Kan., and is the fourth "improved" Los Angeles-class submarine. Modifications of this class include retractable bow planes, a reinforced sail for under ice operations, vertical launch Tomahawk Cruise Missile capability, ship quieting enhancements, and an integrated combat systems suite.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (**PR**)

First Hawaiian Bank's 2015 first quarter Business Activity Report (BAR) for Saipan showed a 4.30-percent increase for "same store sales" in the same period in 2014, according to Laura Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and CNMI region manager. This was the fourteenth consecutive quarter of overall positive growth since fourth quarter 2011.

"Seven of the 11 sectors made positive gains in first

quarter 2015 with Hotels topping the list for the second consecutive quarter," said Dacanay. "Three sectors posting double-digit growth were hotels with 24.47 percent, utilities with 23.30 percent, and supermarkets with 15.21 percent. We remain optimistic that this level of modest growth will continue throughout 2015."

The BAR tracks card sales

» 14th consecutive quarter of overall positive growth

activity in 11 different industry sectors including retail, hotels, home improvement, restaurants, shipping and travel activities, among others.

First Hawaiian is a major card processor of debit and credit sales transactions. In 2014, the bank processed over \$4.7 billion worth of customer credit and debit sales transactions.

The bank provides merchant services to nearly 7,000 First Hawaiian Bank merchant locations throughout Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, and the U.S. mainland.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with total assets of \$18.7 billion was founded in 1858 and has been serving the CNMI region for over 17 years. The bank processes all major U.S. credit cards as well as JCB, China Union Pay, and BC Global Card. (**FHB**)

Youth Congress holds interisland beach cleanup

For the first time ever, the CNMI Youth Congress held an interisland cleanup last Saturday simultaneously on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

On Saipan, Sen. Thomas Manglona, Sen. Reynafe Aniga, and Sen. Roselyn Tanghal partnered with students and tutors at the

AmeriCorps program to clean the shoreline from Naked Fish to The Shack.

On Rota, Sen. Catherine Manglona and her peers from the Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. and Sr. High cleaned a local beach.

Sen. Gerald Crisostomo on Tinian conducted a beach cleanup at a local beach

with assistance from Tinian's National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society members.

The youth senators and volunteers picked up garbage ranging from dirty diapers to rusty metal chairs. (**Youth Congress**)



▲ On Saipan, students and tutors from the AmeriCorps program assisted in the cleanup. **YOUTH CONGRESS**

◀ On Tinian, honor society members from high school and junior high assist the Youth Congress.

Naval Base Guam announces Maila Halom Day 2015

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam's Commanding Officer, Capt. Andy Anderson, takes pleasure in announcing the first open-base event, Maila Hålom Day 2015, to be held on June 20 from 6am to 8pm at the Charles King Fitness Center compound on base.

Maila Hålom (which means "come in," or "welcome" in Chamorro) is designed to strengthen friendships with the community, build an under-

standing of the base and its capabilities, and provide an open forum for citizens of Guam to visit the naval base for a day full of festivities.

The free event kicks off with a 5K run on base, followed by sports activities such as a softball tournament, a 3-on-3 soccer tournament, and a volleyball tournament. The compound will be filled with food and drink from various vendors, as well as other sales.

Children can enjoy a kingdom of bouncy houses, various games and a Carabao ride. During the day, there will be military static displays, historical displays, and music from a local disc jockey, as well as the rock band, "Taking Back Sunday," who will perform from 6 to 8 p.m. In addition, the fitness center pool is open to the community.

Naval Base Guam would like to remind the community

that everyone is welcome to this free, open event, but there will be no pets nor alcohol permitted on the base.

For more information, please contact the Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-2664/2663 or e-mail nbgpao@fe.navy.mil. Additionally, you can contact us through the Naval Base Guam Facebook page – www.facebook.com/USNavalBaseGuam. (**PR**)

Business

Airlines try to save time with speedier boarding process

DALLAS (AP)—Airlines are trying to save time by speeding up a part of flying that creates delays even before the plane leaves the gate: the boarding process.

This summer travel season, Delta plans to preload carry-on bags above passengers' seats on some flights. Southwest wants to get families seated together more quickly.

Airlines have tinkered with different boarding systems almost since the days of Orville and Wilbur Wright, who tossed a coin to decide who would fly first aboard their biplane. Plenty of people have offered ideas for improvement, but no perfect method has ever emerged.

Most airlines let first-class and other elite customers board first. After that, some carriers fill the rear rows and work toward the front. Others fill window seats and work toward the aisle. Some use a combination of the two. Airlines have also tried other tricks, like letting



AP
In this photo taken Tuesday, March 24, 2015, travelers walk toward the baggage drop area for Delta airlines at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in SeaTac, Wash.

people board early if they do not have aisle-clogging carry-on bags.

It's not trivial stuff. With

many flights full, anxious passengers know that boarding late means there might not be any room left in the overhead bin.

And it matters to the airlines. Slow boarding creates delays, which mean missed connections, unhappy customers and extra costs.

Researchers from Northern Illinois University once figured that every extra minute that a plane stands idle at the gate adds \$30 in costs. About 1 in 4 U.S. flights runs at least 15 minutes late. Multiply that by thousands of flights each day, and it quickly adds up for the industry.

Delta's Early Valet service

will offer to have airline employees take carry-on bags at the gate and put them in the bins above assigned seats. The airline wants to see if its own workers can load the bins faster than passengers.

The service began Monday on about two dozen flights, and that number is expected to rise steadily during June, Delta spokeswoman Morgan Durrant said.

Early Valet will be offered through August on some departures from Delta's busiest air-

ports—Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City and Seattle.

It will be available only on flights that typically have a high number of vacationers. Presumably, business travelers know how to board a plane efficiently. Specially tagged bags will be stowed on the plane before boarding begins, Durrant said.

Delta tested the process last summer in Atlanta and Los Angeles and saw some reduction in boarding time, Durrant said.

Gary Leff, co-founder of frequent-flier website Mile-Point, said the service will be the biggest help to passengers in the final boarding groups—the ones most likely to find the overhead bins full. Their bags will go in the cabin instead of being gate-checked as cargo.

"This has the potential to come across as a nice, high-end service," Leff said, "but I'm skeptical that it will go mainstream" because of labor costs.

Southwest Airlines wants to reduce complaints that families can't find seats together because flights are so crowded.

Many health insurers go big with initial 2016 rate requests

By TOM MURPHY
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Dozens of health insurers say higher-than-expected care costs and other expenses blindsided them this year, and they're going to have to hike premiums for individual policies well-beyond 10 percent for 2016. The proposed double-digit hikes would apply to plans sold on the health insurance exchanges created under President Barack Obama's law, as well as individual coverage sold through brokers and agents.

Insurers point to costs from customers they gained under the health care overhaul's cov-

erage expansion and the rising expense of prescription drugs among other reasons for their planned increases, according to preliminary rate information released Monday on the federal government's Health-Care.gov website.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is seeking a roughly 26 percent premium increase, while plans in Illinois and Florida, among other states, are asking for hikes of 20 percent or more.

Individual health insurance policies are a relatively small slice of the overall market. Many more people are insured through an employer. And it is

not clear whether any of these preliminary rate hikes will stick.

Regulators in many states have the power to reject price increases, and many who don't are expected to at least pressure insurers to soften their plans. Health insurance price hikes have been the subject of growing scrutiny for years.

Health insurance experts say it's tough to draw broad conclusions about prices from the requests released Monday. The health care law only requires insurers to report proposed hikes of 10 percent or more. That's only a partial picture of the market that tilts toward a worst-case scenario.

Wal-Mart kicks off next phase of wage increases

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart is raising starting wages for more than 100,000 U.S. department managers and workers in its deli and other specialized departments.

The moves mark the next wave of wage hikes by the nation's largest private employer, which has been under pressure from labor-backed groups for the treatment of its workers. In February, it announced it was increasing minimum wages for entry-level and long-term hourly employees to at least \$10 by next February. That increase affected 500,000 of its 1.3 million

U.S. workers.

The wage hikes are part of a \$1 billion program at Wal-Mart that also includes improving training and offering employees more control of their schedules. The company is hoping that by investing in its workers, its customer service will improve, and ultimately that will encourage shoppers to spend more, helping to perk up sluggish sales at its U.S. division.

In February, Wal-Mart said it would be raising wages for its department managers but didn't offer many details.

Wal-Mart told The Associ-

ated Press late Monday that department managers of complex and service-oriented jobs in areas like produce, electronics and auto care, will start at \$13 per hour and top out at \$24.70 per hour, beginning next month. Starting next February, they will be paid at least \$15 per hour. Previously, the pay range was from \$10.30 to \$20.09. Meanwhile, those managers of less-complicated departments like clothing, and consumer products like paper towels and luggage, will earn from \$10.90 to \$20.71 per hour. Previously, they earned from \$9.90 to \$19.31.

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—

The average price of gasoline has increased 4 cents a gallon over the past two weeks to \$2.84 a gallon.

Still, that's a tiny increase compared to the 35-cent jump recorded over the previous five weeks.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that it's also an indication gas prices may be close to peaking as the summer driving season approaches.

Lundberg says oil prices rose only slightly last week.

Meantime, with more refineries coming back online after maintenance, supplies should increase, stabilizing prices.

The average national price for midgrade gas was \$3.04, with premium going for \$3.20.

The highest price recorded in the continental United States was \$3.83 in Los Angeles. The lowest was \$2.36, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The average price in California was \$3.66, down 10 cents a gallon.

US gas prices rise 4 cents a gallon; big hikes may be ending



STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 18,040.37 +29.69 +0.16%	S&P 2,111.73 +4.34 +0.21%	NASDAQ 5,082.93 +12.90 +0.25%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7558	Philippine Peso	44.655
Australian Dollar	1.3002	Singapore Dollar	1.3539
British Pound	0.6573	South Korean Won	1112.65
Canadian Dollar	1.2503	Swiss Franc	0.9441
Chinese Yuan	6.1981	Taiwan Dollar	30.879
Euro	0.914	Thailand Baht	33.7705

Nation

Either way, no more NSA collection of US phone records

WASHINGTON (AP)—However Congress resolves its impasse over government surveillance, this much is clear: The National Security Agency will ultimately be out of the business of collecting and storing Americans' calling records.

Aiming for passage Tuesday afternoon, the Senate on Monday prepared to make modest changes to a House bill that would end the collection while preserving other surveillance authorities. But while Congress debated, the law authorizing the collection expired at midnight Sunday.

The NSA had stopped gathering the records from phone companies hours before the deadline. And other post-9/11 surveillance provisions considered more effective than the phone-call collection program also lapsed, leading intelligence officials to warn of critical gaps.

The legislation now before the Senate, known as the USA Freedom Act, would reauthorize the surveillance but would phase out NSA phone records collection over time. It passed the House overwhelmingly and is backed by President Barack Obama. Sen. Rand Paul, who doesn't believe it goes far enough in restricting the government, objected anew on



AP
In this June 6, 2013 file photo, the sign outside the National Security Agency (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md.

Monday, but he can't stop a vote to end debate scheduled for Tuesday morning.

If the bill becomes law over the next few days, the NSA will resume gathering the phone records but only for a transition period of six months, in the House version, or a year in the Senate version.

If the bill fails amid congressional politics, the collection cannot resume, period.

The turn of events is a victory for Edward Snowden, the former NSA contractor who disclosed the phone records collection in 2013. Senators on the intelligence committee had been issuing veiled and vague

warnings about the program for years, saying if Americans only knew how the Patriot Act was being interpreted they would be outraged.

But it was Snowden who revealed the details.

Because of Snowden, "people have some more insight into exactly how they are being

spied upon and how the law has been twisted to authorize mass surveillance of people who have no connection to a crime or terrorism," said Harley Geiger, senior counsel with the Center for Democracy and Technology, an advocacy group that supports the USA Freedom Act.

Still, the current legislation would hardly count as a defeat for the NSA, Snowden's former employer. Agency officials, including former Director Keith Alexander, have long said they had no problem with ending their collection of phone records, as long as they could continue to search the data held by the phone companies, which the legislation allows them to do.

The USA Freedom Act doesn't address the vast majority of Snowden revelations, which concern NSA mass surveillance of global Internet traffic that often sweeps in American communication.

If the legislation fails and the surveillance provisions expire, that would be a blow to U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Besides the phone-records provision, expiration of the Patriot Act has meant a halt in the FBI's authority to gather business records in terrorism and espionage investigations, and to more easily eavesdrop on suspects who are discarding cell-phones to avoid surveillance.

ACROSS THE NATION

US insists Kerry's broken leg won't hinder Iran talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State John Kerry headed home Monday to Boston from Geneva, Switzerland, for surgery on his broken leg, as U.S. officials insisted that his injury would not hinder his participation in nuclear negotiations with Iran. With an end-of-June deadline for an Iranian deal fast approaching, the 71-year-old Kerry left Geneva aboard a U.S. military plane accompanied by his orthopedic surgeon Dennis Burke and additional medical personnel. Officials said Burke is expected in the coming days to perform surgery on Kerry's right femur, which Kerry fractured on Sunday in a bicycle accident when he struck a curb and fell on a regular Tour de France route in France located southeast of the Swiss city. He had been receiving treatment at Geneva's main medical center, HUG, and is to receive further care at Massachusetts General Hospital once he returns home. Kerry, an avid cyclist, had hip replacement surgery several years ago. The fracture was near the hip, leading to speculation that his recovery would be lengthy and prevent

him from being as involved in the Iran negotiations as he has been over the past two years.

Records: Wife suspected war vet husband of killing relatives

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—A decorated Iraq War veteran arrested in the killing of his estranged wife's mother, stepfather and brother suffers from post-traumatic stress and had been increasingly delusional, his wife told authorities in court documents released Monday. Amanda Murry also told sheriff's deputies that her husband, Roy H. Murry, 30, of Lewiston, Idaho, blamed her family for the couple's marital problems. Murry was the only person she suspected of having reason to harm the three people, she told investigators. Roy Murry was scheduled to make his first court appearance on Tuesday in Spokane County Superior Court after his arrest on three counts of first-degree murder. Roy Murry earned a Bronze Star for valor as an Army National Guard sergeant in Iraq, where he was severely injured by a bomb. He has had a series of run-ins involving weapons with law enforcement officers since his return from the war.

CENTRAL, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham opened his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination Monday with a grim accounting of radical Islam "running wild" in a world imperiled also by Iran's nuclear ambitions.

He dedicated himself to defeating U.S. adversaries—a commitment that would place thousands of troops back in Iraq, essentially re-engaging in a war launched in 2003.

"I've got one simple message," he told supporters in the small town where he grew up.

"I have more experience with our national security than any other candidate in this race. That includes you, Hillary."

In that fashion, he took on Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton—the former secretary of state—as well as non-interventionists in his own party and rivals with little to no foreign policy experience.

Graham, 59, becomes the first candidate in either party to hail from one of the first four states that cast presidential pri-



Graham

mary ballots. Iowa and New Hampshire lead the process, followed by South Carolina and Nevada.

Having won his third term in November, Graham is a prominent Senate voice in seeking a more muscular foreign policy and one who casts the threats facing the United States in particularly dark terms.

Simply put, radical Islam is running wild," he said. "They have more safe havens, more money, more weapons and

more capability to strike our homeland than any time since 9/11. They are large, they are rich, and they're entrenched

He said as president, he'd "make them small, poor and on the run."

"I'm afraid some Americans have grown tired of fighting them," he said. "I have bad news to share with you—the radical Islamists are not tired of fighting you."

Despite his focus on Islamic State militants with footholds in those two nations, Graham said Iran poses the gravest threat.

Homeland to revise airport screening; TSA head reassigned

WASHINGTON (AP)—Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on Monday reassigned the leader of the Transportation Security Administration and directed the agency to revise airport security procedures, retrain officers and retest screening equipment in airports across the country.

The TSA's acting administrator, Melvin Carraway, is being reassigned to a different job in the Department of Homeland Security. Acting Deputy Director Mark Hatfield will lead the agency until a new administrator is appointed.

The directives come after the agency's inspector general briefed Johnson on a report

analyzing vulnerabilities in airport security—specifically, the ability to bring prohibited items through TSA checkpoints.

Johnson would not describe the results of the classified report, but said he takes the findings "very seriously."

ABC News first reported Monday that undercover agents were able to smuggle prohibited items, such as mock explosives or weapons, through TSA checkpoints in 67 out of 70 attempts. ABC cited anonymous officials who had been briefed on the inspector general's report.

In a statement issued Monday evening, Johnson said, "The numbers in these reports never

look good out of context, but they are a critical element in the continual evolution of our aviation security."

Johnson said he had directed TSA to take several corrective steps, including:

■ Immediately revising standard operating procedures for screening.

■ Conducting training for all transportation security officers, and intensive training for all supervisory personnel.

■ Retesting and re-evaluating the screening equipment currently in use at airports across the United States.

■ Continuing to conduct random covert testing.

Johnson said that in the longer term, he has directed TSA and DHS to "examine adopting new technologies to address the vulnerabilities identified by the Inspector General's testing."

The Homeland Security chief said that over the last year, "TSA screened a record number of passengers at airports in the United States, and ... seized a record number of prohibited items."

Still, he said, the agency was "constantly testing and adapting the systems we have in place."

Johnson also called on the Senate to confirm President Barack Obama's choice to lead the TSA, Coast Guard Vice Adm. Pete Neffenger.

Asia

Boat with more than 450 people sinks in China's Yangtze

BEIJING (AP)—A small cruise ship carrying more than 450 people, many of them elderly, sank overnight in the Yangtze River during a storm in southern China, and eight people have been rescued, the state broadcaster CCTV re-

ported Tuesday.

Rescue work was underway but low visibility due to fog was hampering the search, CCTV said. The boat was traveling from Nanjing upstream to the southwestern city of Chongqing when it sank Monday night in

Hubei province, the report said.

■■■
BEIJING (AP)—State broadcaster CCTV says rescuers heard survivors yelling for help Tuesday from inside a capsized cruise ship on China's Yangtze River af-

ter it went down overnight in a storm with 458 people aboard, most of them elderly.

The broadcaster says 12 people survived, and at least five people confirmed dead.

CCTV says search teams heard people calling out

from within the partially submerged ship about 12 hours after it went down late Monday during a windy storm in Hubei Province. Stormy weather is hindering the rescue.

The broadcaster showed rescuers in orange life vests on the upside-down hull, with one of them lying down tapping a hammer and listening for a response.

The boat was traveling from Nanjing upstream to the southwestern city of Chongqing.

■■■

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted the captain and chief engineer, who were both rescued, as saying the ship sank quickly after being caught in a cyclone. The Communist Party-run People's Daily said the ship sank within two minutes.

CCTV said the four-level ship was carrying 406 Chinese passengers, five travel agency employees and 47 crew members. It sank in the Damazhou waterway section,

where the river is 15 meters (about 50 feet) deep.

The broadcaster said most of the passengers were 50 to 80 years of age.

CCTV video footage of the river showed calm waters Tuesday morning, with dozens of rescue personnel in bright orange vests gathered on the shore. Several rescue ships were searching the waters, and submersible craft had been deployed.

The channel said seven of the survivors swam to shore and alerted authorities of the sinking.

The Eastern Star measured 251 feet long (76.5 meters) and 36 feet wide (11 meters) and was capable of carrying a maximum of 534 people, CCTV reported. It is owned by the Chongqing Eastern Shipping Corp., which focuses on tourism routes in the popular Three Gorges river canyon region.

CCTV reported that 6 inches (150 millimeters) of rain had fallen in the region over the past 24 hours.



AP

Rescue workers stand on the capsized ship, center, on the Yangtze River in central China's Hubei province Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

US official calls for Myanmar citizenship for Rohingya

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A senior U.S. official said Monday that resettlement in a third country is not the answer to the swelling tide of boat people in Southeast Asia and called for Myanmar to give citizenship to Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution there.

Anne Richard, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for population, migration and refugees, said resettling all Rohingya refugees in the United States would entice others to leave their homeland.

"The answer to the issue is peace and stability and citizenship for the Rohingyas in Rakhine state, and that is the solution," she said at the end of a

three-day visit to Malaysia.

"At the moment, there is tremendous persecution and oppression of the Rohingyas in Rakhine state. They do not have citizenship and we are concerned about their human rights," she said.

Since early May, more than 4,600 boat people from Myanmar and Bangladesh have been brought ashore from Southeast Asian waters. Several thousand more are believed to still be at sea after human smugglers abandoned their boats amid a regional crackdown.

Some are Bangladeshis who left their impoverished homeland in hope of finding jobs abroad. But many are

Rohingya Muslims who have fled persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which has denied them basic rights, including citizenship, and confined more than 100,000 to camps. There are more than 1 million Rohingya living in the country formerly known as Burma.

Malaysia and Indonesia, which initially pushed away boats carrying the migrants, recently said they would give temporary shelter to the boat people on condition that they are resettled within a year.

Richard said 18-24 months would be a more realistic time frame for the United States to resettle refugees.

But she warned that only a small fraction of the world's refugees will be resettled, mainly including torture victims, widows and orphans or those with medical needs.

"Resettlement is not the solution for most refugees on Earth," she said. "The most important solution is people don't have to leave their country in the first place."

Richard earlier visited some 1,100 Rohingya and Bangladeshi immigrants who arrived in northern Malaysia by boats last month. She said the immigrants were detained in fairly modern and clean buildings at a facility in northern Kedah state.

PH leader says charges will be filed in factory fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president said Monday that charges will be filed against all those responsible for last month's factory fire that killed 72 people, and blasted government agencies for failing to do their duties.

President Benigno Aquino III told a news conference that local officials and fire bureau personnel who ignored the rubber slipper factory's failure to meet safety requirements would be among those charged.

He said he did not want a repeat of the tragedy and has ordered the inspection of some 300,000 factories in metropolitan Manila. The fire was one of the worst in the country after a 1996 disco blaze that killed 162 people. A fire at a budget hotel in 2001 killed 75.

Aquino said an investigation showed Kentex Manufacturing Corp. in Valenzuela city, a northern Manila suburb, failed to install an automatic sprinkler system and a protected fire exit

inside the facility. The company also failed to obtain the required fire safety inspection certificate since it began operating in 1996, except in 2012, and even that certificate is in question, he said.

"We do not want a repeat of this tragedy and to pin down through the filing of charges all those who conspired for this tragedy to happen," he said.

He urged the public, especially factory workers, to report to authorities any safety risks. The fire shows that each agency of

government failed to do what it should have done, he said.

"We need to take out the whip and say, 'Hey, you have obligations and if you have been negligent of your obligation there will be a corresponding punishment,'" Aquino said.

Government lawyers will determine the charges to be filed but that among them are reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, falsification of public documents and dereliction of duty.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: War in Afghanistan since 2001 has killed 100,000

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A new study says war in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion overthrew the Taliban regime has killed almost 100,000 people, and wounded the same number. The study, called Costs of War and produced by Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies, looks at war-related deaths, injuries and displacement in Afghanistan and Pakistan from 2001 to last year, when international combat troops left Afghanistan. Civilian and military deaths in both countries total almost 149,000 people killed, with 162,000 seriously wounded, it says. Noting a rise in annual figures for killed and wounded in recent years, the report's author, Neta Crawford, says the war in Afghanistan "is getting worse." The United Nations said civilian casualties rose 16 percent in the first four months of 2015, with 974 people killed.

South Korea reports 2 deaths from MERS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Tuesday confirmed the country's first two deaths from Middle East Respiratory Syndrome as it fights to contain the spread of the virus that has killed hundreds of people in the Middle East. South Korea has reported 24 cases of the disease since diagnosing the country's first MERS illness last month in a man who had traveled to Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries. South Korea's cases have largely connections to the first patient, ei-

ther medical staff who treated him, or patients who stayed near the man at the hospital before he was diagnosed and isolated and their family members. Tests on a 58-year-old woman who died of acute respiratory failure Monday showed she had been infected with the disease before her death, the Health Ministry said in a statement. A 71-year-old man who tested positive for the virus last week has also died, it said. The statement said both stayed at the same hospital with the first patient.

Bangladesh files murder charges in 2013 building collapse

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Authorities in Bangladesh filed murder charges Monday against dozens of people for their roles in the 2013 collapse of a garment factory building that killed more than 1,100 people. The charges were filed against 41 people, including the building's owner, Sohel Rana, and his parents and more than a dozen government officials, for their direct role in the deaths of 1,137 people in the collapse of Rana Plaza, said the lead investigator, Bijoy Krishna Kar of the Criminal Investigation Department. Investigators initially had said the accused, who also include the owners of the five factories that the building housed, would be charged with culpable homicide, but they later changed their plans due to the gravity of the accident, Bangladesh's worst industrial disaster. If convicted of murder, the defendants could face the death penalty. The maximum punishment for culpable homicide is seven years in jail.

World

UN official says Ebola will end in Sierra Leone in weeks

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Ebola chief said Monday he believes “it’s only a matter of weeks” before the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone ends, but stopping the deadly disease in Guinea will take more time because in some areas unsafe traditions still hold sway over what’s good for people’s health.

Dr. David Nabarro stressed in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday that the Ebola epidemic “absolutely isn’t over” though Liberia has been Ebola free since May 9.

“We have cases occurring, not in huge numbers but enough to be very disturbing, in Sierra Leone and in Guinea,” he said, and the situation in Guinea is especially troubling because surprise cases have been popping up that are not part of known chains of transmission.

“Getting on top of this is difficult,” Nabarro said. “It’s like looking for needles in haystacks—very hard to find the people who are ill and get them under treatment quickly before they perhaps infect others.”

Since the Ebola outbreak was first reported in March 2014, the World Health Organization said 27,049 cases and 11,149 deaths have been reported, almost all in the three West African countries.

According to the latest WHO figures, in the week ending May 24 there were 12 new cases of Ebola—9 in Guinea and 3 in Sierra Leone, down from a total of 35 cases the previous week.

Nabarro is heading to Guinea on Thursday to review efforts to reduce the number of new cases



in the country and neighboring Sierra Leone to “zero.”

In Sierra Leone, he said, there are three districts with a few cases being reported—the capital Freetown, nearby Port Loko, and the Kambia district further west which borders Guinea.

“The general trendlines are that increasingly, new cases are known contacts of people who’ve already got the disease, and also when cases are detected they’re brought under treatment quickly,” Nabarro said.

“And that means that we believe that it’s only a matter of weeks before the outbreak is

ended in Sierra Leone,” he said, “and that’s because of strong participation of communities, a very coordinated national response, and strong leadership from Ernest (Bai) Koroma, the president.”

Guinea, on the other hand, has chains of transmission which health workers don’t fully understand and communities that aren’t cooperating with health workers trying to eradicate Ebola because they view them as trying to disrupt their traditional way of life, especially in dealing with illness and death, Nabarro said.

Touching the body of an Ebola victim can transmit the disease, but traditional burials

in Guinea are hands on—and determine whether the spirit of the dead person will move into

AP
In this file photo taken on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, a man stand near his home next to a board stating that his home is under quarantine, twenty one days are the quarantine time, due to the Ebola virus in the Kambia district, in Kambia, Sierra Leone.

others in the community in a happy way or will be disturbed and take it out on people, Nabarro said.

This is the issue that experts are now focusing on, and they’ve brought in anthropologists, local religious leaders, particularly imams, and local political leaders to help build confidence between health responders and the impacted communities, he said.

“We need to find a compromise, a dignified, traditional approach to burial but also safety, so we don’t get transmission of disease, and it’s that interface that’s at the center of the current effort to end the outbreak in Guinea,” Nabarro said.

“It can be done. I’m utterly confident it will be done. I just can’t tell you how long it will take,” he said.

Ex-inmates regret destruction of notorious Syrian prison

BEIRUT (AP)—For decades, the mere mention of Tadmur Prison was enough to send chills down a Syrian’s spine.

The notorious facility in the desert of central Syria was where thousands of dissidents were reported to have been beaten, humiliated and systematically tortured for opposing the Assad family’s rule.

This weekend, it was demolished by the Islamic State group, which took over the site near the ancient town of Palmyra last month, bringing mixed emotions from many Syrians who wanted it to remain standing so future generations would know its horrors.

“They destroyed our memories, our catastrophe and the walls that we leaned on and told our stories to,” said Ali Aboudehn, a Lebanese who spent four harrowing years in Tadmur. “They destroyed the land that absorbed our blood because of torture.”

The sprawling prison—once one of Syria’s darkest secrets—is located a few miles east of Palmyra, a desert oasis famous for its Roman-era colonnades, temples and artifacts. There were fears that the Islamic State militants might destroy the 2,000-year-old heritage site.

Instead, over the weekend,

they focused their destructive efforts on Tadmur Prison.

The extremists released photos that showed men carrying plastic containers apparently filled with explosives. A video showed parts of the prison in rubble.

Osama al-Khatib, a Syrian opposition activist who fled Palmyra for Turkey three weeks ago, said the militants destroyed only the part of the prison that held members of the military, including army defectors. He said the facility where political prisoners were held is still intact. His report could not be independently verified.

WORLD BRIEFS

69 killed as tanker truck explodes in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—A runaway oil tanker truck exploded in a crowded bus station in the south of the country, setting ablaze 12 buses carrying passengers and killing 69 people, Nigeria’s Red Cross and police said Monday. Red Cross chairman Peter Emeka Kathy said about 30 other victims have been hospitalized with severe burns. He said the truck was barreling down the hill when the brakes failed and it ploughed into the bus station at Onitsha, the state capital, before exploding. Gov. Willie Obiano of Anambra state wept when he visited the scene of Sunday night’s conflagration. Relatives were visiting morgues on Monday to try and identify missing family members. “All the persons inside the buses I think about 12 buses were burnt beyond recognition,” Punch newspaper reported, quoting Anambra state police commissioner Hosea Karma.

Bahamas police probe deaths of 2 employees of cruise lines

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Bahamian authorities are investigating the deaths of two crew members on separate cruise ships that were in the islands’ waters. Police have disclosed few specifics, saying only that they are “actively investigating these incidents to determine the exact cause of death.” A statement from the

Royal Bahamas Police Force says a male crew member was found dead early Sunday aboard a cruise ship anchored at Castaway Cay, a private island that serves as an exclusive port for Disney Cruise Line vessels. Police say the lifeless body of a female crew member was found aboard another cruise line’s vessel early Monday as it passed through Bahamian waters. Neither ship was identified. Police spokeswoman Terecita Pinder did not immediately respond to calls or an email seeking comment Monday.

Erdogan denies lavish palace has gold-plated toilet seats

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey’s president has invited the country’s main opposition leader to inspect the lavatories in his lavish palace, insisting he won’t find any gold-plated toilet seats. Recep Tayyip Erdogan invited Kemal Kilicdaroglu to the 1,150-room palace for the inspection Monday after the secular party leader accused Erdogan of excessive spending of taxpayers’ money on luxuries, including gold-plated toilet seats. Turkey holds general elections on Sunday. Erdogan is not running but has been campaigning on behalf of the ruling party—which he headed for more than a decade. He hopes it can get a large enough majority to change the constitution and replace Turkey’s parliamentary political system with a presidential system with a powerful head of state.

American held in Yemen freed, French hostage pleas for help

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A freelance journalist who was among several Americans held by Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen was set free Monday as a French hostage abducted in Yemen by an unknown party appeared in a video pleading for help.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said that freelance journalist Casey Coombs, who was injured, has been released and is in Oman.

The rebels, known as Houthis, seized Yemen’s capital last year and have been the target of a U.S.-backed and Saudi-led air campaign since March 26. Neighboring Oman mediated the deal to release Coombs, a freelance reporter working for The Intercept online news web-

site and other publications.

Emails to the Intercept seeking comment were not immediately returned. Coombs reported in the Intercept in early May that he was having trouble leaving Yemen.

A video meanwhile surfaced showing Frenchwoman Isabelle Prime, a World Bank consultant who was kidnapped in February, pleading for help. The Associated Press viewed the video on Monday.

Prime was abducted in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, along with her Yemeni translator, who was released shortly afterward. There has been no word until now on her fate.

The Houthis control the capital and much of northern Yemen, but the country is also home to a

powerful local al-Qaida affiliate that has carried out attacks in Sanaa and abducted foreigners in the past to trade for ransom or imprisoned militants.

In the video, Prime appeared sitting in the desert dressed in a black robe and looking frail and anguished. She addressed French President Francois Hollande and Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi by name, saying, “Please bring me to France fast because I am really, really tired.”

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal said his government has verified the authenticity of the video and that it was filmed in April. Nadal said officials from the ministry will meet with the Prime family on Tuesday.

Focus

PARIS (AP)—The announcer with an American accent offers an upbeat roundup of the day's main headlines: Islamic State fighters seized control of a crucial Syrian city, extremists repelled Kurdish fighters despite coalition airstrikes, and two suicide bombers successfully carried out their missions.

The tone is National Public Radio in the United States. But this is Al-Bayan, the Islamic State radio targeting European recruits by touting recent triumphs in the campaign to carve out a Caliphate, and it represents a major headache for Western powers trying to curtail the IS influence.

All news is good news for Al-Bayan's "soldiers of the Caliphate." In this narrative, the enemy always flees in disgrace or is killed. The broadcasts end with a swell of music and a gentle English message: "We thank our listeners for tuning in."

The tension between the smooth, Western-style production and the extremist content shows how far the hardcore Islamic propaganda machine has come since 2012, when an aging Frenchman posed in front of a black-and-white jihadi flag and threatened France in the name of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. The footage was grainy, with minimal production values, and released on a relatively obscure regional website. By contrast, Al-Bayan reaches thousands of listeners every day via links shared on social networks, helping to swell the ranks of Westerners—projected this year to reach a total of up to 10,000—fighting for the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq.

In the time it took to bring the Frenchman Gilles Le Guen to trial, his European successors in violent jihad have overturned the recruitment script in ways that might impress a New York PR agency.

Islamic State videos come with thrumming beats, handsome clear-eyed young men and editing techniques that call to mind tourism commercials or ads for the latest console game. A typical week of recruitment now includes multiple newscasts in three languages, except the "good news" is about suicide attacks instead of traffic reports and baseball scores. A polished video directed at French recruits shows trainees leaping through burning hoops and swinging across monkey bars over flames. Multilingual blog posts by jihadis urge people to follow them. And a metastasizing network of tweets spills forth from the smartphones of armchair cheerleaders.

Cameras themselves are heroes in this information war: Media, an unnamed fighter says in a video dedicated to these PR mujahedeen, is "half of the battle, if not its majority."

An April video calling for doctors to join IS shows physicians in immaculate scrubs, as

well as clean and functioning medical equipment. It features a clean-shaven, blue-eyed Australian moving about in a pristine neo-natal ward, promising new recruits that they will be helping Muslims who suffer from "a lack of qualified medical care." The video has the feel of a daytime television public-service message.

In an exchange on social networking service Ask.fm the same week, a person identifying himself as a British resident of Islamic State territories promised newcomers free medical school with minimal entry requirements. Meanwhile, in a series of tweets, another person purporting to be a Briton praises subsidized gas, free water and dental care superior to anything offered in the West.

"Naturally the arrogance will kick in & they would deny the truth and claim there (sic) way is better. Lol next time you pay your bill smile," the person said, according to a selection of tweets culled by the SITE Intelligence Group.

A handful of people show up repeatedly as key recruiters: a Glasgow woman who reportedly helps British girls reach Syria; a Dutch fighter who gives jihadi interviews and set up a Tumblr page; a blue-eyed Frenchman who appears in multiple videos calling on his countrymen to emigrate to IS territories.

When Le Guen was arrested in April 2013, France's defense minister said the government could "count on the fingers of one hand" those who, like him, wanted to fight alongside Islamic extremists. Now, the mass recruitment of Western Islamic radicals is considered one of the greatest security threats faced by Europe and the United States.

"They want Europeans in general. They want anyone to come, to fight, to create the Islamic state, to make the caliphate," said Sebastien Pietrasanta, a French lawmaker who is spearheading nascent efforts to de-radicalize young extremist recruits. "We estimate there could be 5,000 and within the year, there could be 10,000. ... We are facing not just a problem of security, but a problem of society."

And the group isn't just calling for weathered would-be fighters. As its new multimedia drive shows, anyone willing to help in the war zones of Syria and Iraq is welcome. One-way travel is encouraged, but not mandatory—at least, for men.

Anyone, from anywhere, can recruit for Islamic State. A March study by Brookings Institute researchers J.M. Berger



This file image taken from a militant website associated with Islamic State extremists, posted Saturday, May 23, 2015, purports to show a suicide bomber, with the Arabic bar below reading: "Urgent: The heroic martyr Abu Amer al-Najdi, the attacker of the (Shiite) temple in Qatif", which the Islamic State group's radio station claimed responsibility for. Al-Bayan, the Islamic State radio targeting potential European recruits, touts recent triumphs in the campaign to carve out a Caliphate with contrast between the smooth, Western-style production and the extremist content showing how far the hardcore Islamic propaganda machine has come since its beginnings in 2012.

IS revamps recruitment, with savvy, professional broadcasts

and Jonathon Morgan found more than 46,000 active Twitter accounts supporting Islamic State in a two-month period. As soon as one account is shut down, more emerge.

Meanwhile, Western government warnings about the dangers of joining Islamic State have barely dented the rate of departures. Those who have lived unhappily under IS rarely offer a competing narrative, in mortal fear of retaliation. And Western nations are having a hard time combatting rhetoric that they—and the Western media that IS so successfully mimics—are untrustworthy.

Islamic State recruits skew young. In France, the West's largest source of extremists heading to Iraq and Syria, they average in their mid-20s, with female recruits tending to be even younger. Whatever they are looking for, Islamic State promises: Shariah law, a deeper purpose in life, a fight against a dictator, aid work, automatic weapons, pathological violence for those so inclined.

The top U.S. military man in Europe attributes the success of Islamic State recruiting to its understanding of what many young people yearn for, as well as the group's ability to harness cutting-edge technology and personal

connections. Western recruits tend to cluster, like the 20-odd young men from the small French town of Lunel who left in groups of two or three and rejoined each other in Syria; the three British schoolgirls who followed months after the departure of a friend; or the group of young Spaniards accused of plotting attacks at home when they realized they would be blocked from going to Syria.

"They are able to reach and find out what is important to these people, what motivates these people, and then they create an ability to fill that need, initially through the social media, Internet," Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe, said recently. "And then when they bring them on board, they continue to address these basic wants, of value, of a purpose—a sense of something as a part of a larger good. And whether it's right, wrong or indifferent, they are able to reach into these people and find that motivation."

Governments have failed at countering the tailor-made messages. John G. Horgan, of the University of Massachusetts' Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, thinks it's because Western intelligence agencies are looking at the caliber of recruits,

instead of the sophisticated and enticing grooming process.

"It is phenomenally exciting for them to be part of this, this secret club," Horgan said. "And once that takes root ... that excitement completely outweighs anything we can do to try to counter it."

An e-book of travel advice feeds on the excitement, advising people to bring military-grade knives, a compass and solar chargers because "you will be minimizing wastage and polluting less." It recommends bringing an extra set of clothes for changing after the dash under barbed wire.

Few who have abandoned life under Islamic State are willing to talk about it, although security officials say about a third of European fighters have returned home. The group threatens traitors with death and has carried out that threat in Syria, if not in the West. But Peter Neumann of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence at Kings College London says their voices will ultimately be the most effective at dissuading more departures, if governments can ensure they face no risk.

"Right now it's really only Islamic State who is telling a story," he said. "To have a coun-

ter-story being told by a former fighter would be potentially very powerful."

There will be no counter-story from the young man from Belgium who joined Islamic State after becoming convinced that his Arab name torpedoed any future in his homeland.

The man's mother said she found him a few small jobs and tried to convince him that his place was in Belgium—"that he had a future ... that jihad was to have the courage to look every day for work." She spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity for fear of what might happen to her government job if it became known that she had raised an Islamic extremist.

The people the young man met hanging around Brussels-area mosques, coupled with the videos he saw online, had a more alluring pitch.

"They told him he could help people in Syria," the mother said. In a phone call home, he told her of his intention of building the caliphate and dying as a martyr. At age 19, Anis, also known as Abu Ibarhim al-Belgiki, was reported killed on the last day of February in the battle for Deir al-Zour airport in Syria.

His mother was told he was hit in the head by a bullet—and buried near the spot where he fell.

Good Housekeeping

How much should my new floor cost?

By OSEYE BOYD
ANGIE'S LIST

What is the right price to pay for flooring?

Many homeowners fear they'll receive an inferior flooring product by paying too little, or get overcharged by unscrupulous contractors.

For the average consumer, it's hard to know a good deal from a bad one. To help consumers crack the flooring price code, Angie's List asked three flooring experts how much homeowners should expect to pay for new carpet, hardwood and tile flooring.



Prices for hardwood range from \$2 per square foot for the cheapest flooring up to \$30 or more on the high end. MCT

Carpet

Unlike tile or wood flooring, which is priced by the square foot only, carpet is priced by the square yard or square foot, making an apples-to-apples comparison challenging.

However, converting the square yard price into square feet isn't difficult; just divide it

by 9. For example, carpet priced at \$27 a yard costs \$3 a square foot, says Tom Manion, owner of Manion Door to Door Flooring of Austin, Tex.

Average carpet prices start at \$2 a square foot and increase with quality. Middle-grade quality carpet ranges from \$3 to \$4 a

square foot, and high grades and designer grades cost about \$5 or more per square foot. According to Costhelper, expect to pay an additional \$2.50 to \$6 per square foot for padding and \$2 to \$6 per square foot for installation.

Be wary of free padding promotions or low-cost carpet

deals. You know, the ones that offer three rooms for an absurdly low price—like \$99. Free carpet padding is usually cheap, thin and often results in consumers paying for an upgrade. As for those amazing deals, the cheap carpet comes with high-cost padding, installation and

other extras tacked on so the deal isn't as sweet as it seemed.

Oh, and about stain resistance. It's not always needed.

Chris Burton, co-owner of Burton's Flooring Center of Franklin, Ind., says stain resistance is natural for polyester or olefin carpet because the fibers are non porous. However, nylon carpets do need added stain protection.

Hardwood flooring

Prices for hardwood range from \$2 a square foot for the cheapest flooring up to \$30 or more on the high end.

Flooring pros say the affordability and durability of engineered hardwood floors make it more popular with homeowners than solid wood floors.

"It takes a water hit," Burton says. "If you were to flood that floor, you don't have to tear it out and redo it."

Burton says his customers typically spend about \$8 per square foot for engineered hardwood flooring; add an additional \$2 per square foot for installation.

Minion says consumers should expect to pay \$7 to \$12 per square foot for quality hardwood flooring.

"If the homeowner buys the wood, and you need somebody to install it, usually an installation goes for about \$2 a square

foot," Bill LeBeau, owner of LeBeau's Hardwood Floors of Huntersville, N.C., says.

According to Angie's List data, the average hardwood install costs \$2,141, with prices ranging from \$1,800 to \$2,475.

Tile flooring

Tile prices vary widely, from \$1 per square foot up to more than \$25, depending on the type. Glazed ceramic tiles start around \$1 per square foot, while porcelain, marble and granite tiles start at \$2 per square foot, according to Costhelper.

Higher-end tiles, such as mosaic, which are small tiles mounted to a mesh sheet, can cost up to \$25 per square foot, as can glass, leather and metal tiles, according to Costhelper.

Homeowners can expect to pay \$6 to \$6.50 per square foot for tile installation, Burton says. Exceptionally low labor costs could signify that the installers aren't qualified, and that could pose problems down the road.

"You can set that tile, and it will stay in place for two to three years, and then it will start cracking," Burton says. "Nine times out of 10, it will fail."

Oseye Boyd is a reporter at www.angieslist.com, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

Backyard chicken coops gain ground as regulations ease

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS

Coop by coop, backyard chicken keeping is gaining ground in my area of Hampton Roads, Va., and elsewhere.

Founded in 2010 with 30 chicken enthusiasts, PeCK, or Peninsula Chicken Keepers, now has 450 members, according to founder Carol Bartram of Yorktown, Va. The group networks and offers monthly meetings with speakers, as well as help for newbies.

"Many of them weren't allowed to have chickens where they lived, and many folks were asking how to get that changed," says Bartram of that first meeting. She and husband, Scott, first became interested in backyard chickens after reading the article "City Chicks" in Natural Home and Garden magazine in 2006.

Soon after that first meeting, Bartram found herself helping a Yorktown resident get her two acres permitted for chickens. In the past five years, more and more cities and counties in southeastern Virginia changed regulations to allow hens and sometimes roosters.

"Hampton Roads as a whole is becoming more chicken-friendly," says Bartram.

"This follows a movement across the country. It's really part of a larger sustainability movement."

Recently, PeCK sponsored a self-guided tour of backyard chicken coops, so the curious could talk to chicken keepers about the pros and cons of maintaining a small flock.

Here are three backyard chicken habitats that were on

that Virginia Peninsula tour:

Justice coop in Hampton, Va.

A backyard gardener for 23 years and Master Gardener since 2012, Jenny Justice always loved farm life, although she has always lived city style in Hampton.

"My grandparents had a farm in the mountains of southwest Virginia, and I loved visiting and helping with the farm animal chores," says Justice, 62.

When Hampton started talking about changing its chicken-keeping rules, Justice was soon hatching ideas for her own backyard flock.

"We got our girls—four Rhode Island Red hens—Mother's Day 2014 when they were 10 weeks old," she says.

"It (the coop) has wonderful features that allow me to collect eggs from outside the coop and a completely fenced-in run.

"I can also open their small door to the coop to let them out in the mornings and close them up for the night, and open and close their window from outside the run. The back of the coop completely opens up to allow for ease of cleaning.

"The pros outweigh the cons: fresh eggs, manure to compost and use to fertilize the garden, weed control and the sheer enjoyment of watching and interacting with them. I love the way they run to the door of the run to greet me when I come out



Jenny Justice's coop provides indoor protection at night and an outdoor place to roam. MCT

the back door. Of course, they are hoping for a treat of cracked corn or leftovers from dinner but don't seem to take offense if they don't get anything."

Gould coop in Yorktown, Va.

Niki Gould started studying chicken-keeping a year before they moved from Germany to Yorktown, Va.

"My husband thought I was crazy, but I was determined to raise a few chicks for clean eggs for my family," says Gould, 38.

For research, Gould read "Backyard Farming on an Acre (More or Less)" cover to cover, more than once, she adds. She asked her chicken-keeping neighbor many questions, and signed up for PeCK's newsletters, read its blogs and took its coop tour.

Gould allows her chickens to roam the yard, but does keep the couple's personal food-gardening area fenced

off from the girls.

Her daughter feeds and puts the chickens away nightly, and they all watch and corral them as needed. Everyone helps with coop and yard cleanup. Even the family's 14-year-old golden retriever lives in peace with the chickens that quietly graze around the dog when she's in the yard.

In the yard, the hens love eating seed heads on grass and any chickweed that sprouts.

"Chickens are great gardeners, even if they do 'replant' things for me," Gould says.

"They're sweet companions in the yard when I'm weeding."

At the Burkhart home in Newport News, chicken-keeping chores help teach the kids—Isabella, 17, and Amos, 14—entrepreneurship, work ethic and responsibility, according to their parents, Janie and Fritz.

"We home school Amos and he's home all day, and this gives him something to tend to and care for," says Janie.

Janie grew up on a farm and had chickens along with other farm animals 35 years ago, so that experience came in handy. They connected with PeCK and related websites, especially Backyard Chickens. Their coop for 12 chickens is homemade from white fencing that was being torn down at a local funeral home. Exercise runs for the chicken attach to the coop.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Ultimate Grilled Pizza Recipe

Quick-rise yeast gets mixed right in with the flour and salt and needs no proofing. Grilling pizza gives it a smoky flavor not unlike that from a wood-burning oven. If you like, grill onions, peppers and sausages and let guests personalize their own pizzas.

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 package quick-rise yeast
3/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup hot water (120 F to 130 F)
2 teaspoons olive oil
2 tablespoons olive oil
8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese
12 fresh basil leaves
2 small ripe tomatoes
Salt and coarsely ground black pepper

1. Prepare outdoor grill for direct grilling over medium heat.
2. In large bowl, combine flour, yeast and salt. Stir in hot water and 2 teaspoons oil until blended and dough comes away from side of bowl. Turn onto lightly floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes.
3. Shape dough into two 10-inch rounds or four 6-inch rounds (do not form rims). Cover with greased plastic wrap; let rest 15 minutes.
4. Place dough rounds on hot grill rack over medium heat and grill until underside of dough turns golden and grill marks appear, 2 to 5 minutes. With tongs, turn rounds over.
5. Brush lightly with some remaining oil. Top with mozzarella, then basil and tomato slices. Grill until cheese begins to melt, 3 to 5 minutes longer. Drizzle with remaining olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Makes 12 appetizer servings.

TIP: No time to make your own dough? Frozen bread dough from the supermarket or pizza dough purchased from your local pizza parlor is a great stand-in for homemade dough. Follow the thawing directions on the package if using frozen dough.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/. (Hearst Communications, Inc.)

Life & Style

Bruce Jenner completes transition to Caitlyn in Vanity Fair

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Jenner's transition is complete.

"Call me Caitlyn," declares a headline on the July cover of Vanity Fair, with a photo of a long-haired Jenner in a strapless corset, legs crossed, sitting on a stool. The image was shot by famed celeb photographer Annie Leibovitz. Inside, more images show Caitlyn in gold lame, a black bustier and a cleavage-baring, off-the-shoulder gown.

Caitlyn Jenner also debuted a new Twitter account with: "I'm so happy after such a long struggle to be living my true self. Welcome to the world Caitlyn. Can't wait for you to get to know her/me."

The account broke a record for fastest time to reach 1 million followers, besting President Barack Obama's new (at)Potus handle with a mark of 4 hours and 3 minutes, according to Guinness World Records.

Vanity Fair took to Twitter with the cover Monday and said Jenner spoke emotionally about her gender journey: "If I was lying on my deathbed and I had kept this secret and never ever did anything about it, I would be lying there saying, 'You just blew your entire life.'"

The cover comes after Jenner's two-hour ABC interview with Diane Sawyer in which Bruce Jenner confirmed the transition. The much-anticipat-

ed "20/20" interview on April 24 was watched by more than 17.1 million viewers.

Prior to the unveiling of Caitlyn, Jenner had said he preferred the pronoun "he," but Vanity

Fair contributing editor Buzz Bissinger, who wrote the story, refers to "she."

The Olympian who married and divorced reality show "momager" Kris Jenner has ap-



This photo taken by Annie Leibovitz exclusively for Vanity Fair shows the cover of the magazine's July 2015 issue featuring Bruce Jenner debuting as a transgender woman named Caitlyn Jenner.

SIDE BAR

Kim Kardashian, Kendall Jenner react to Caitlyn Jenner

NEW YORK (AP)—Caitlyn Jenner's loved ones were among numerous well-wishers to support her coming out Monday in Vanity Fair.

Her stepdaughter, Kim Kardashian West, tweeted: "How beautiful! Be happy, be proud, live life YOUR way!"

Khloe Kardashian declared: "We were given this life because you were strong enough to live it! I couldn't be prouder!!! Caitlyn." The third K sister, Kourtney, chimed in: "Freedom! Stunning."

Jenner daughter Kendall Jenner added "be free now pretty bird." Her little sister Kylie Jenner took to Instagram with the cover and this sentiment: "My angel on earth!"

Among others to welcome Caitlyn—and her new Twitter handle (at)Caitlyn-Jenner—were Lady Gaga, who tweeted: "thanku for being a part of all of our lives & using your platform to change people's minds."

The White House retweeted Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Barack Obama's sentiment: "Nice to meet you, (at)Caitlyn-Jenner. The brave choice to live as



FILE - In this Sept. 11, 2013, file photo, former Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner arrives at the Annual Charity Day hosted by Cantor Fitzgerald and BGC Partners, in New York.

your authentic self is a powerful example to so many."

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organization GLAAD promptly issued tips and terminology for referring to transgender people.

"By sharing her journey with the world, Caitlyn Jenner is accelerating acceptance of transgender people everywhere and reminds us all how important it is to live as your most authentic self," said Sarah Kate Ellis,

GLAAD's president and CEO.

From the fashion world, designer Zac Posen offered: "Be who you are and feel beautiful." And from TV land, Jesse Tyler Ferguson represented with a reference to another famous magazine cover, that of Paper, Kim Kardashian and her famous arc of Champagne from bottle to derriere:

"CaitlynJenner has truly broken the Internet. What a moment."

peared for years on "Keeping Up with the Kardashians." Jenner's own still-untitled docu-series chronicling her transition is scheduled for the same network, E!, beginning July 26.

In addition to the va-va voom corset cover, Vanity Fair released a black-and-white video on the making of the cover

"Caitlyn doesn't have any secrets," Jenner narrates. "As soon as the Vanity Fair cover comes out, I'm free."

Bissinger, the "Friday Night Lights" Pulitzer Prize winner, said in the lengthy magazine story that he had unfettered access to Jenner, both before her transition and after. His approach to Jenner's life is exhaustive, based on interviews with several of her biological children, her mother, her former wives and others.

The story describes Jenner's painful recovery from "facial-

feminization" surgery in March, a grueling 10-hour procedure that had Jenner briefly second-guessing the decision during a panic attack eased in part with the help of a Los Angeles Gender Center counselor who made a house call. There was also a breast-augmentation procedure.

Now, Bissinger reports, the 65-year-old Jenner is "immensely happy, relaxed, with a shiny sense of purpose and confidence." He added: "She can't wait when she goes out now to tell the paparazzi to 'make sure it's a good shot.'"

Of the upcoming reality series, Jenner is already prepared with a response over criticism that she's doing it for a paycheck:

"I'm not doing it for money. I'm doing it to help my soul and help other people. If I can make a dollar, I certainly am not stupid. (I have) house payments and all that kind of stuff. I will never make an

excuse for something like that. Yeah, this is a business."

Jenner said she is aware of the appalling conditions in which many of the 700,000 transgender men and women live in the U.S. and plans to shed light in the E! show on such issues as suicide and attempted suicide within the community.

She also plans a segment in which she sees if she can still hit a golf ball 300 yards off the tee with her new physical attributes. A road trip is planned on the new show for Jenner and several transgender women to travel from Los Angeles to San Francisco to visit a center for transgender youth.

On July 15, Jenner plans her first major public appearance. She will be given the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at ESPN's ESPYs in Los Angeles. Past winners include Muhammad Ali, Nelson Mandela and Billie Jean King.

Tracy Morgan: Bad days and good days a year after limo crash



In this photo provided by NBC News, from left, actor and comedian Tracy Morgan, fiancée Megan Wollver, Morgan's attorney Benedict Morelli, and interviewer Matt Lauer appear during taping for "NBC Nightly News," Monday, June 1, 2015, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Tracy Morgan said Monday that he doesn't remember anything about the limo crash that left him in a coma for two weeks and that, a year later, he still has bad days as well as good.

Appearing live on NBC's "Today" show for his first public appearance since the accident, Morgan sat clutching a cane and became emotional as he recalled learning after the June 7, 2014, crash that fellow comedian James "Jimmy Mack" McNair was killed.

Morgan came across a video of McNair's funeral on YouTube, and "I lost it for about a week," he said.

Asked by "Today" host Matt Lauer what it's been like emotionally, Morgan replied, "Up and down." He said he had his daughter, son and fiancée, Megan Wollver, "so they keep

my spirits up."

"But the pain is always going to be there for Jimmy Mack," he added, his voice cracking and his eyes welling. "He was a loving man, a warm man. He was a good man. He's gone. That's it." Last week Morgan settled a lawsuit with Wal-Mart, which owned the truck that slammed into the back of the limo van carrying him and others on the New Jersey Turnpike. Morgan suffered head trauma, a broken leg and broken ribs.

"I'm happy that Wal-Mart stepped up to the plate in a tremendous way," he said. "I'm happy they looked out for Jimmy Mack's family."

Lauer noted that Morgan typically traveled with his family to comedy performances but chose not to bring them to the appearance in Delaware from which he was returning when

the accident occurred.

"I told Megan, 'You and the baby (daughter) stay home, and we'll go to Delaware, and I'll be right back,'" Morgan said.

Speaking of his own continuing recovery, he said, "I have my good days and my bad days, where I forget things. There are times where I get the headaches and the nosebleeds, and I won't even let my lady know because I don't want her to be worried about it."

Asked if he hopes to get back to performing, he replied, with a tear streaking down his cheek, "I love comedy. I'll never stop loving her. And I can't wait to get back to her, but right now, my goal is just to heal and get better. Because I'm not 100 percent yet. I'm not. And when I'm there, you'll know it. I'll get back to making you laugh. I promise you."

Man sentenced for stalking Mila Kunis flees health facility

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man sentenced for stalking actress Mila Kunis escaped from a mental health facility over the weekend and was being sought by authorities in Southern California on Monday.

Stuart Lynn Dunn disappeared around 7:30 p.m. Saturday from the Olive Vista Behavioral Health Center in Pomona, said Deputy Chief Reaver Bingham of the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Dunn climbed out a small window of a bathroom and then scaled a barbed-wire fence.

"He went in to take a shower, and when he didn't come out they went in to check on him," Bingham said.

Law enforcement authorities were actively searching for him, but he had no known local contacts and there were no leads, Bingham said.

"We're treating him as dangerous," he said. "We never



In this Feb. 2, 2015, file photo, actress Mila Kunis attends a premiere at TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, Calif.

know the state of mind of an individual. He does have a fixation on the original victim, so that's why."

Kunis was personally notified of the escape, he said.

Asked if she was being given protection, Bingham said there is a law enforcement protocol for such situations but he was not at liberty to discuss it. He did not know what private mea-

sures she may have taken.

Dunn pleaded no contest to stalking the "Black Swan" and "That '70s Show" actress in January 2013.

He was arrested in February 2012 for breaking into her vacant condominium. Authorities took him into custody again a few months later, after he wait-

ed for Kunis outside her gym for three days, in violation of a restraining order.

Dunn was sentenced to six months of probation and ordered to stay away from the actress and her representatives for 10 years.

Messages seeking comment from representatives for Kunis

were not immediately returned Monday.

Stalking laws have been steadily tightened since Rebecca Schaeffer's murder 25 years ago. The 21-year-old actress-model was shot to death at her Los Angeles apartment in 1989 by obsessed fan Robert Bardo.

Pharrell honored, Kimye steals the show at fashion awards

NEW YORK (AP)—It was music superstar Pharrell who was being honored as a fashion icon, but it was another superstar who got a lot of the attention at the annual Council of American Fashion Designers awards on Monday night.

Introducing Pharrell, who was receiving the evening's Fashion Icon award, Kanye West took the opportunity not just to praise his friend, but to express frustration at the fashion industry for, he suggested, its cool reception to his efforts to be a serious fashion designer.

"It is very difficult to break perception," West said. "Fashion had to be the hardest high school I ever entered. At least I had a big brother," he said, referring to Pharrell, who "talked me through it and kept me going."

Pharrell, in turn, thanked many fashion figures who've been influential in his career and in his personal style, and concluded by saying: "I'm not a style icon. I'm just inspired.



In this April 12, 2014 file photo, Pharrell Williams performs at the 2014 Coachella Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

And I'm OK with that."

The emotional highlight of the evening, which honors the year's top designers, was when Betsey Johnson, whose color-

ful, whimsical designs have been gracing the fashion world for more than 50 years, came onstage to accept her lifetime achievement award.

Enrique Iglesias undergoing reconstructive hand surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Enrique Iglesias is undergoing reconstructive hand surgery in Los Angeles after his fingers were sliced during a recent concert.

His representative said in a statement to The Associated Press that surgery on the 40-year-old singer will be completed Monday.

Iglesias sliced some of his fingers when he grabbed a drone during a concert in Tijuana, Mexico, on Saturday. He was "semitreated" at the side of the stage to stop the bleeding.

"Thank you to all for your concern and good wishes. Enrique is currently undergoing

reconstructive hand surgery today," the statement read. "Enrique will resume his tour July 3rd in Mexico City. We appreciate all your wishes and prayers."

Iglesias performed an additional 30 minutes, though he was advised to end his show after the accident occurred at Pla-

za de Toros de Playas in front of 12,000 fans, who posted photos and video on social media of Iglesias with a bandaged hand and bloodied T-shirt.

Iglesias was rushed to Los Angeles after the concert to see a specialist. The singer's show was part of his Sex and Love World Tour.



In this photo provided by Francis Ramsden, Enrique Iglesias performs while holding his bloodied and bandaged right hand behind his back during a concert in Tijuana, Mexico on Saturday, May 30, 2015.

'Fifty Shades of Grey' sequel to be published June 18

NEW YORK (AP)—E L James is back for more.

A fourth novel in the British author's multimillion-selling "Fifty Shades of Grey" erotic series will be released June 18 by Vintage Books, the publisher announced Monday. The new book is called "Grey," told from the point of view of billionaire Christian Grey, whose explicit romance

with young Anastasia Steele became an international obsession. As with the "Fifty Shades" books, "Grey" will be published as an e-book and a paperback original.

In a statement issued through Vintage, a paperback imprint of Penguin Random House, James said she was dedicating the new book to readers who had "asked ...

and asked ... and asked ... asked" for a novel narrated by Christian.

"Christian is a complex character and readers have always been fascinated by his desires and motivations, and his troubled past," she said. "Also, as anyone who has ever been in a relationship knows, there are two sides to every story."

Boyfriend with hidden child may harbor other secrets

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a hard time getting over a secret my boyfriend, "Wayne," kept from me. We have been off and on for 14 years, but back on for the past four. The problem is, he had a child with a woman in a different country. The child is now 9. Wayne didn't mention it until four years ago, during our last breakup. It bothers me that he kept it from me.

I have since met the woman and the child, but my trust in my boyfriend is strained. In the back of my mind I keep wondering what else he hasn't told me. Abby, he was always against having kids with me. He said he didn't want any. Now I wonder if it was because he already had one.

Wayne is surprised I'm so challenged by this. He says he and the woman dated for only a few months, then broke up because he didn't feel they were compatible. She told me their child was the product of a one-night stand. Now I don't know who to believe. Please advise.

BETRAYED OUT WEST

DEAR BETRAYED: There is a reason why you and Wayne have been "off and on" for 14 years, and I'm guessing it's because he has a problem with commitment. Now it appears he may also have a problem leveling with you. If you have to make a choice about whom to believe, I think you should believe the mother of his child because by telling you what she did, it's clear she wasn't trying to make herself look any better.

DEAR ABBY: My 85-year-old mother told me that upon her death she is leaving each of her children a letter expressing to them how they have hurt her throughout the years. Never once has she acknowledged how deeply she has hurt US. It affected our childhood and adulthood. I think if she feels we hurt her, she should say it to us while she's living.

It has always been about Mom's needs, not ours. I, for one, plan to put her unopened letter in her coffin to be buried with her when the time comes. Her letter is just a final hurtful arrow to stab us with, and I already have had a lifetime of that. I don't need her to damage me further.

Am I wrong? Normally parents leave heartwarming letters to give their children peace. She reads your column, so I hope she reconsiders.

ALREADY WOUNDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ALREADY WOUNDED: You're not wrong. Your mother appears to be toxic. Sending her negativity down with her is a perfect solution in my opinion.

DEAR ABBY: I am an Irish-American man with a problem of the heart. I recently began reconnecting on social media with a girl I knew in high school. I wrote her several times, and she said what I wrote was very sweet and kind. She told me, however, that she was seeing someone. I said I understood and did not want to mess

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



up the relationship.

I decided to bide my time and hope she becomes free. I love her with all my heart, and this waiting is killing me. Should I keep biding my time and waiting, or should I move on?

HOPING IN TENNESSEE

DEAR HOPING: When the woman told you she was seeing someone, she may have been trying to tell you kindly that she isn't interested in a romance with you. For you to put your life on hold waiting for a woman you haven't seen since high school would be a mistake, and that's why I'm advising you to move on.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

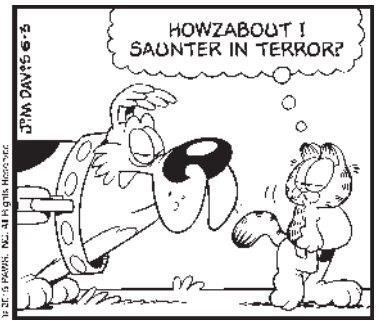
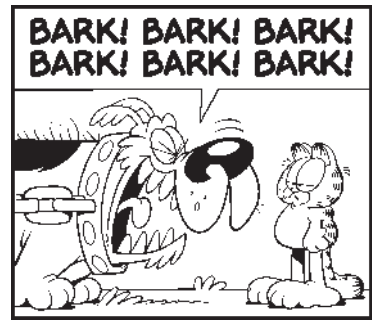
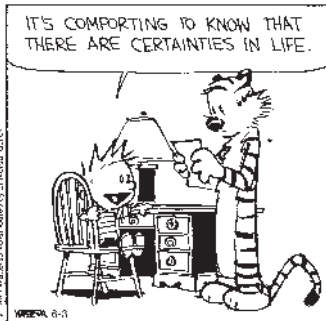
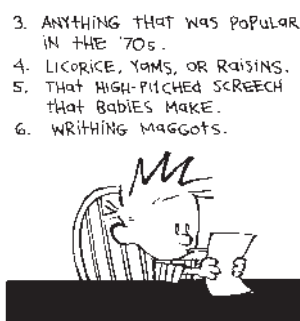
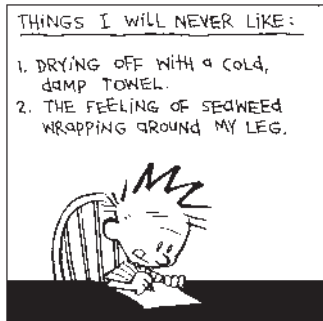
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

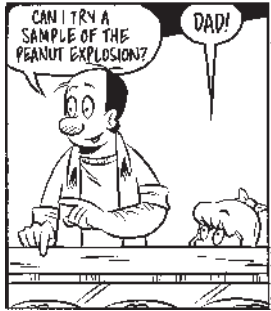


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Chicago" lyricist
4 Sailor's septet?
8 Alpha follower
12 Sticky stuff
13 Radius partner
14 Congregant's cry
15 Branch
16 Classic sitcom
18 Opening night
20 Moray, e.g.
21 Mineral-hardness scale
24 Buzzing instrument
28 Simon & Garfunkel song
32 Carvey or Delany
33 Egg cells
34 Frighten
36 Ultimate, in a way
37 Gunn and Cook
39 Army poster phrase

DOWN

41 Use
43 Old dagger
44 Ball prop
46 Charlie Brown's sister
50 Tony Martin hit
55 Nay underoer
56 Exceptional
57 Stare
58 Aries
59 Culture medium
60 Mongol tent
61 Trio from Cincinnati?

2 Drill
3 Flop on stage
4 Beaus
5 Blueprint add-on
6 "I'll take that as —"
7 Rescue
8 Love song
9 Outback bird
10 Sleuth (Sl.)
11 Whatever number
17 "A mouse!"
19 Ms. Thurman
22 Kachina doll maker
23 Garbage barges
25 Wild and crazy
26 Aware of
27 Walkiki locale
28 Greek vowel
29 Tel —
30 One of the Three Bears
31 Zen paradox
35 Israel's legislature
38 Grandma, sometimes
40 Afternoon get-together
42 27-Down souvenir
45 Nervous
47 Muse's instrument
48 Slender
49 Thanks-giving veggies
50 George's brother
51 Joke
52 Historic time
53 Water (Fr.)
54 Spring mo.

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	L	E	E	B	E	T	H	M	U	M
M	O	S	T	A	G	H	A	A	N	A
P	U	S	H	B	R	O	C	M	Y	I
D	I	S	C	O	W	E	A	L	I	T
R	O	E	S	C	H	A	T	R	O	O
A	T	M	A	L	B	A	S	W	A	Y
B	A	B	Y	B	O	O	V	P	E	S
L	A	S	T	G	A	R	T	H		
A	I	A	M	O	T	H	A	R		
B	A	N	L	I	S	A	B	L	O	O
L	A	C	V	I	A	L	A	R	I	A
P	R	E	F	I	R	Y	C	I	L	I

Yesterday's answer 6-3

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rafael Nadal, 29; Anderson Cooper, 48; James Purefoy, 51; Deniece Williams, 65.

Happy Birthday: Satisfaction will be yours if you follow your heart and live your dreams. Getting involved in activities with the people you enjoy the most will help you gain confidence and put you one step closer to the life you want to live. Don't hesitate when you should be jumping at any opportunity that comes your way. Your numbers are 6, 19, 21, 29, 32, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of paperwork that is holding you back before someone discovers that you've left something incomplete. Make arrangements to do something exhilarating. A day trip or learning something new will gear you up for new adventures. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be reluctant to try new things. A partnership will bring you good fortune. Express your intentions, but don't embellish or you will have to backtrack. Keep your responsibilities simple, precise and doable. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll have plenty of options, but not all of them will be noteworthy. Do your homework and get the facts. A tempting offer will be riddled with false hope. Consider a new strategy to improve your money management. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take what's yours. If you give in to the demands being made, you will never reach your goals. A physical change will boost your morale and encourage you to try new things.

Take time to deal with a partnership that needs an adjustment. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be the one to step out on a limb and initiate change. Your ideas are good and your positive attitude will win support and favors from influential sources. Your determination will not go unnoticed, and a leadership position will open up. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on what's in front of you, not on what's behind. Don't let what others do influence you. Size up your situation and act accordingly. An emotional matter will escalate if you let your temper get the best of you. Protect your reputation. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The more you can fit into your day, the greater the benefits. Enjoy every moment by approaching whatever you are asked to do with positive energy and an open mind. You will learn from those with experience and an entrepreneurial spirit. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep moving. Put your heart and soul into creative projects and personal enhancement. Focus on your home and making it an easy place for you to explore and develop your innovative ideas. Romance is encouraged and will enhance your life. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider what the people you deal with want. Setting up incentives will make it easier for you to get what you want. Negotiate with everyone's best interests at heart. Positive domestic changes will improve your emotional attitude. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let the sudden and unexpected changes going on around you cause uncertainty. Stick to what has always worked for you in the past and keep moving forward. A chance to improve an important relationship should take top priority. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of business at home and at work. You can make a difference that will result in a higher income and advanced position. Speak up and share your ideas. Your candor will be appreciated and a partnership will develop. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a step back and keep a watchful eye. Not everyone is on your side and someone will take pleasure in making you look bad. Avoid arguments and focus on self-improvement and doing the best you can. Strive for perfection. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are caring, loyal and strong-willed. You are entrepreneurial and inspiring.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			1	2	6	9					
				8			6				
6		8						3			
4	1					7				9	
	9							8			
5	8	7								4	
8	2		5					7			
3					7	8	4				
			6	2							

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/03

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	3	5	6	4	8	1	7
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
8	4	1	9	2	7	6	5	3
9	5	7	6	4	2	1	3	8
1	3	4	7	9	8	5	6	2
6	8	2	3	5	1	9	7	4
7	1	5	2	3	9	4	8	6
3	6	9	4	8	5	7	2	1
4	2	8	1	7	6	3	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★

4/02

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRUTH OR DARE

Solution: 8 letters

R	N	S	S	C	Q	Y	S	Y	P	A	R	T	Y	A
E	E	C	R	I	H	E	E	L	L	L	E	T	P	D
K	R	H	H	E	G	O	A	L	G	A	G	P	N	O
A	D	O	T	A	V	N	O	I	L	S	S	E	N	L
E	L	O	T	A	L	O	R	S	T	I	L	R	E	
R	I	L	R	A	R	L	P	S	E	R	U	E	S	
B	H	S	U	L	S	U	E	E	F	N	B	W	C	
E	C	G	S	U	P	T	O	N	E	E	O	T	S	
C	H	G	T	F	U	N	N	Y	G	L	E	S	N	
I	G	N	P	H	O	T	O	S	D	E	S	A	T	
K	N	I	H	T	R	O	D	O	U	B	L	E	T	S
C	I	S	T	U	G	A	M	E	M	I	U	N	H	O
I	K	F	O	R	F	E	I	T	U	S	T	O	R	Y
P	S	R	E	T	R	E	A	T	S	O	W	C	W	N
D	A	R	I	N	G	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	I	L

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6/3

Adolescents, Ages, Answer, Apps, Asking, Boys, Challenge, Children, Choose, Contest, Daring, Double, Forfeit, Friend, Funny, Gag, Game, Girls, Group, Icebreaker, Kids, Laugh, Lie, Must, Obey, Online, Party, Photo, Pick, Picture, Plan, Retreats, Schools, Show, Sign, Silly, Sing, Sleepovers, Story, Tell, Tests, Think, Trust, Truthful, Would You Rather, Yell

Yesterday's Answer: Driving

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

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Close Date: June 08, 2015

Position: (1) Bookkeeper
Salary: \$1,300 per month
Qualification: College graduate with 3 years experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00>

Position: (1) Maintenance Technician
Salary: \$1,250 per month
Qualification: High school diploma or vocational with 3 years experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-9071.00>

Position: (1) Housekeeper
Salary: \$6.05 - \$6.55 per hour
Qualification: High school diploma with 3 years experience

Link:
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WHATZIT Solution: United Nations

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Serena tops Stephens; Sharapova out; Djokovic-Nadal on tap

PARIS (AP)—For the third match in a row at the French Open, Serena Williams was oddly out of sorts at the outset and dropped the opening set.

And for the third match in a row, almost as though this was the plan all along, Williams righted herself to pull out a victory.

In a riveting, two-hour showdown between the last two American women in the draw, the No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Williams was a game away from defeat Monday, then came back to beat Sloane Stephens 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Williams reached the quarterfinals and avoided joining defending champion Maria Sharapova on the way out of Roland Garros.

"It's not how you start, I guess. It's how you finish," Williams said. "That's kind of how I'm looking at it."

Close as it was, thanks in large part to Williams' 43 unforced errors, more than twice as many as Stephens' 21, the eventual outcome seemed certain once Williams pulled even by taking the second set.

That's because she is 10-0 in three-setters this season.

Williams is 29-1 overall in 2015 and owns an 18-match Grand Slam winning streak, including championships at the U.S. Open and Australian Open that gave her 19 major singles trophies.

The 1999 U.S. Open, when



AP
Serena Williams of the U.S. reacts as she defeats compatriot Sloane Stephens during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, Monday, June 1, 2015 in Paris.

she collected her first major title, is the only other time Williams came back to win three straight matches after losing the first set, according to the WTA.

"There's a reason," said

Stephens, defeated in the French Open's fourth round for the fourth consecutive year, "why she's the No. 1 player in the world."

Either Williams, in 2013, or Sharapova, in 2012 and 2014,

has won the French Open the past three years. Only Williams has a chance to do it again on Saturday because the second-seeded Sharapova was outplayed throughout a 7-6 (3), 6-4 loss to 13th-seeded

Lucie Safarova.

"My opponent had a different gear than I did," Sharapova said after her earliest exit at Roland Garros since 2010.

Sharapova did not use the cold she's been dealing with as an excuse, saying: "I don't like to talk about it, and I don't think it really makes a difference."

In her first French Open quarterfinal, Safarova will face No. 21 Garbine Muguruza of Spain, who beat No. 28 Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-3, 6-4.

On a day full of tennis' biggest names, the Big 4 of the men's game - Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray - all won. The top-seeded Djokovic and nine-time French Open champion Nadal will play in the quarterfinals Wednesday, a rematch of last year's final.

Nadal eliminated the last U.S. man, Jack Sock, 6-3, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, while Djokovic had no trouble in a 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 win over Richard Gasquet.

Federer needed about an hour to finish his 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory over Gael Monfils in a match suspended because of darkness after the second set Sunday. Federer next faces Swiss Davis Cup teammate Stan Wawrinka, and Murray will play 2013 French Open runner-up David Ferrer.

Williams' quarterfinal opponent is 2012 runner-up Sara Errani, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over Julia Goerges.

The winner of Williams-Errani will go up against someone making her Grand Slam semi-final debut, because it'll either

be 23rd-seeded Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland—who surprised two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 2-6, 6-0, 6-3—or 100th-ranked Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium.

The 40th-ranked Stephens, who is 22, knew she could compete with the 33-year-old Williams, having defeated her in the 2013 Australian Open quarterfinals.

Before taking the court Monday, Stephens shared a moment in the hallway with her coach, Nick Saviano. They bumped fists, and he patted her on the right shoulder.

When play began, Stephens won the first two games without the benefit of a single winner. Williams kept right on missing, much as she did early against 105th-ranked Anna-Lena Friedsam in the second round and former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka in the third.

"I feel like I'm living on the edge," Williams said. "But, you know, I've got to get off the edge."

After one forehand landed in the net, she looked down at the ground and said, "Oh, no." After another did the same, she let out an "Aaaaaah!" of despair. A later miscue prompted Williams to twirl her racket overhead, as if to mock her poor swing.

Stephens led 5-4 in the second set, a game from victory. From there, Williams won nine of the final 12 games.

"I don't really like to live like this," Williams said. "Believe me, I'm thinking, 'OK, Serena, pull yourself together.'"

Source: Bulls plan to introduce Hoiberg as coach



CHICAGO (AP)—The Mayor is moving to Chicago.

The Bulls plan to introduce Iowa State's Fred Hoiberg as their new coach on Tuesday, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

Hoiberg had long been rumored as the replacement for Tom Thibodeau, who was fired last week after five seasons in Chicago. The person spoke to the AP on Monday night on condition of anonymity because the contract had not been finalized.

The Bulls said in a release they would make a major announcement on Tuesday.

Hoiberg went 115-56 with the Cyclones, including four straight NCAA Tournament appearances and back-to-back Big 12 tournament titles. He had open-heart surgery in April.

Before flying to Chicago to speak with the Bulls, Hoiberg acknowledged that several NBA teams had approached him about their vacancies in recent years.

"When this opportunity came about, this was something that interested me greatly," Hoiberg said. "One of my life goals is to coach in that league."

Hoiberg said the specula-

tion over his future had been "extremely tough." Hoiberg grew up in Ames and earned the nickname "The Mayor" while starring for the Cyclones in the 1990s.

Hoiberg joins a team that entered last season with championship aspirations with Derrick Rose back from his latest knee injury and Pau Gasol in the lineup after signing last summer, only to come up short. The Bulls struggled through injuries to win 50 games and got knocked out by the banged-up Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Their season ended with a listless loss in Game 6. By then, long simmering tensions between Thibodeau and the front office had boiled over, and the Bulls let him go May 28 even though he took them to heights they had not reached since the Michael Jordan-Scottie Pippen championship era.

Hoiberg played four seasons with the Bulls and has a long history with general manager Gar Forman, who was clearly enamored with the successes enjoyed by Iowa State. Hoiberg also spent four years in the Timberwolves' front office.

Hoiberg had never coached at any level before the Cyclones took a chance on him in 2010. It proved to be one of the

smartest risks in school history.

Hoiberg's fast-paced style was a hit with fans and players, and he leaned heavily on transfers like Royce White and Will Clyburn to quickly bring the Cyclones into national prominence. Iowa State was a trendy Final Four pick in March before a stunning opening-round loss to 14th-seeded UAB.

Hoiberg was poised to coach his most talented team yet next season, with six of his top eight players back and a top-10 ranking all but a certainty. The lure of a reunion with the Bulls proved to be irresistible.

The Bulls are following a familiar route by hiring Hoiberg to take over for Thibodeau, who had a 255-139 record in Chicago. After all, they brought in Tim Floyd from Iowa State and parted with Phil Jackson when they broke up the dynasty.

In Chicago, Floyd's players included Hoiberg, who also played for Larry Brown and Larry Bird in Indiana as well as Flip Saunders and Kevin McHale with the Timberwolves before his pro career ended abruptly when an aneurysm required open-heart surgery at the age of 33. The 42-year-old Hoiberg had another procedure on April 17 to replace an aortic valve and was

expected to need four to six weeks to recover.

Floyd posted a 49-190 record in three-plus seasons with the Bulls. But the circumstances are different this time.

Hoiberg, who played at Iowa State when Forman was an assistant to Floyd, inherits a far more talented team.

He will have a former MVP running the point in Rose. Guard Jimmy Butler is expected to sign a maximum contract as a restricted free agent after making his first All-Star team and winning the Most Improved Player award. Gasol made his fifth All-Star team. Nikola Mirotic emerged as one of the league's top young players.

But there are some big questions.

It remains to be seen if Rose can consistently play at an elite level the way he did before he suffered season-ending injuries to each knee. Gasol turns 35 in July. Joakim Noah struggled coming off knee surgery.

Noah and Rose were on minutes restrictions this past season, a big point of contention between Thibodeau and management. The idea was the Bulls would be in better shape for the playoffs, but it went against Thibodeau's belief that good habits are developed through repetition.

Big 7th inning helps Astros rally for 5-2 win over Orioles



HOUSTON (AP)—Evan Gattis drove in two runs in a four-run seventh inning and the Houston Astros continued their late-inning magic as they rallied for a 5-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Monday night.

The Astros have scored a major league-leading 94 runs in the seventh inning or later this season.

They trailed by one entering the seventh before a leadoff single by Chris Carter knocked starter Ubaldo Jimenez out of the game. He was replaced by Brad Brach (3-1), who walked Luis Valbuena before a single by pinch-hitter Hank Conger loaded the bases.

George Springer singled to tie it up with one out before Jose Altuve's sacrifice fly put Houston on top. Gattis drove in two more to make it 5-2.

Will Harris (2-0) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win and Luke Gregerson struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 14th save.

Yankees 7, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Mark Teixeira hit his ninth career grand slam off Seattle ace Felix Hernandez in the fifth inning and Michael Pineda allowed two runs pitching into the seventh in the Yankees' win over the Mariners.

The anticipated matchup between two of the top right-handers in the American League met expectations for three innings before Hernandez (8-2) fell apart in stunning fashion.

The Yankees took advantage of five walks and a wild pitch that allowed a run to score as the AL wins leader lost his rhythm following a brief rain shower that dampened Safeco Field before

the retractable roof could close.

With Hernandez struggling, Teixeira didn't miss his chance to blow the game open. With only one out in the fifth, Hernandez fell behind 2-0 and grooved a fastball to Teixeira, who hit his 15th homer of the season and sixth career long ball off Hernandez.

Brewers 1, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Mike Fiers and four relievers combined on an eight-hitter and Carlos Gomez had a first-inning RBI single in the Brewers' victory over the Cardinals.

Fiers (2-5) allowed four hits in six innings, one shy of his season high, and won for the first time in six starts since May 2 at Chicago.

Johnathan Broxton, Neal Cotts, James Jeffress and Francisco Rodriguez combined to allow four hits without walking a batter in Milwaukee's fourth shutout of the season. Rodriguez finished for his ninth save.

The win comes a day after the Brewers beat Arizona in 17 innings.

Jaime Garcia (1-2) worked seven sterling innings and Kolten Wong and Mark Reynolds had two singles apiece for the Cardinals, shut out for the fifth time but first time at home where they're among the best in the league at 20-7.

Cubs 5, Marlins 1

In Miami, Jason Hammel had a career-high 11 strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings, and the Cubs beat the Marlins.

With his start pushed back because of a cracked fingernail and a rainout, Hammel (4-2) pitched for the first time in eight days, and he seemed to benefit from the extra rest. He allowed



AP
Houston Astros' Luis Valbuena (18) rounds the bases in front of Baltimore Orioles third baseman Manny Machado (13) on a solo homer in the fifth inning of a baseball game Monday, June 1, 2015, in Houston.

one run, four hits and no walks, lowering his ERA to 2.82.

Hammel threw 117 pitches, his highest total since 2009. Two relievers completed a six-hitter, and the Marlins struck out 13 times.

The Cubs had scored only 13 runs in their previous seven games, and they showed a little offensive life with eight hits. Starlin Castro hit his fourth homer, and Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant each had an RBI double.

Jose Urena (0-2), making his second major league start, improved on his rocky debut

but allowed three runs in six innings. The Marlins fell to 4-10 under manager Dan Jennings.

Pirates 4, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Gerrit Cole struck out a season-best nine to win his third straight start, Neil Walker hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the fifth after a pair of called strikeouts, and the Pirates beat the Giants.

Andrew McCutchen had two likely hits stolen by great plays in the outfield and he instead settled for sacrifice flies against Ryan Vogelsong (4-3).

Cole (8-2) struck out the side in order in the fourth, then worked a 1-2-3 fifth before loading the bases with none out in the sixth. He got out of it with a strikeout of Brandon Belt and inducing Brandon Crawford's inning-ending double play.

Belt's two-run, two-out double in the first put San Francisco ahead in a rematch of the NL one-game wild card won 8-0 by the eventual champion Giants last October at PNC Park.

Mets 7, Padres 0

In San Diego, Jacob deGrom took a perfect game into the sixth and allowed two hits over eight innings, leading the Mets to a win over the Padres.

The lanky right-hander struck out the first four batters and did not allow a baserunner until Clint Barmes led off the sixth with single through the right side of the infield.

After striking out rookie Austin Hedges, deGrom (6-4) induced pinch-hitter Abraham Almonte to hit a grounder back to the mound, and deGrom started an inning-ending double play to shortstop Wilmer Flores.

Will Middlebrooks had the Padres' other hit—an infield single in the eighth—before Sean Gilmartin pitched the ninth to finish the two-hitter. DeGrom faced one batter over the minimum for eight innings.

Angels 7, Rays 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Albert Pujols homered twice, and Mike Trout and David Freese also went deep for the Los Angeles Angels in a victory over the Rays, extending their winning streak to five games.

Pujols extended the Angels' lead to 5-3 in the fifth inning

with a solo shot to left off rookie Alex Colome, then hit a two-run homer in the eighth off Andrew Bellatti to end the scoring. It was his 13th this season and 533rd of his career, one shy of Jimmie Foxx for 17th place all-time.

The three-time NL MVP, who has homered in four of his last five games, has 1,117 extra-base hits for his career—tying Foxx and Ted Williams for 16th in that department.

The Angels have 13 homers in their last five games, five coming in an 8-6 win over Detroit on Saturday during their four-game sweep of the Tigers.

Dodgers 11, Rockies 4

In Denver, Clayton Kershaw had a career-high three hits to back his strong pitching performance and Joc Pederson lined one of Los Angeles' four homers, helping the Dodgers beat the Rockies.

Known for his powerful left arm, Kershaw (4-3) was just as lethal at the plate. He had a double and two singles, including a run-scoring liner to left as part of a six-run sixth that broke open a tight game.

Kershaw allowed five hits and two runs over seven innings. He hasn't lost to the Rockies in nearly two years, spanning nine starts.

Andre Ethier and Jimmy Rollins hit solo homers in the second off Kyle Kendrick (2-7), who gave up six runs—five earned—in 5 1-3 innings. He's allowed 15 homers this season, tying James Shields for most in the majors.

Nolan Arenado hits a two-run homer off Kershaw in the fourth. It was his third straight game with a homer, the longest stretch of his career.

Braves 8, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Freddie Freeman homered for the second straight game and Andrelton Simmons had three hits to help the Braves to a win over the Diamondbacks.

Freeman's two-run blast came in the fifth inning with Simmons on base, and Freeman also drove in a run with a sixth-inning single. Simmons extended his hitting streak to 10 games, and the runs were more than enough for Alex Wood (4-2), who held the Diamondbacks to a run on seven hits in eight innings.

The Braves, winners of their previous two games, tagged Diamondbacks starter Archie Bradley (2-3) for three runs in the second inning, all with two out. A.J. Pierzynski and Jonny Gomes singled and No. 8 hitter Todd Cunningham was walked intentionally to get to Wood, who lined a single up the middle for two runs batted in.

SIDEBAR

As baseball goes high-tech, stealing a base still old school

CINCINNATI (AP)—Billy Hamilton doesn't bother to watch video of pitchers' moves to home plate. When he reaches first, one of baseball's top base stealers goes more by observation and instinct.

While technology has significantly changed the game with every nuance measured and broken down statistically, a computer printout can't give him what he needs when he leads away from the base.

"I see so many things happen when I'm on the bases, so I can't go into a game and say this is what the pitcher does," Hamilton said. "You've got to play it by ear, watch them during the game and see what kind of moves they make."

While charts of every batted ball let teams shift on hitters, base stealing is still largely observational even though runners and managers have all the data they could want.

"They have technology

out there: Pitchers' times to the plate, runners' base stealing times, catchers' throwing times," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "But it's not a perfect science. Pitchers vary their moves at times. You still want to use your eyes and a stopwatch, your old-fashioned way of doing things."

Simply put, there are too many unmeasurable variables involved in that mad, 90-foot dash to the next base.

Following this weekend's games, major league runners were successful at stealing 69.3 percent of the time - the same percentage as in the 1999 season, according to STATS. The success rate has fluctuated between 70.2 percent and 74.4 percent over the last 12 years.

While statistically-inspired defensive shifts have helped dampen offenses, the running game is pretty much the same. And so is the way teams prepare for it.

"We still use the stopwatch on the running game," Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez said.

So do the other teams. First base coaches pull them out of their back pockets and time a pitcher's move to the plate during a game. It helps them to know how quickly the pitcher is getting rid of the ball during any given inning.

If it takes less than 1.2 seconds to get the ball to home, there's not much point in trying to steal. Hamilton learned that as a rookie last season, when he would run anyway and was thrown out a major league-leading 23 times while stealing 56 bases.

He's being smarter about it this year and has a major league-leading 21 steals in 24 tries.

"You steal off the pitcher, not off the catcher," Hamilton said. "It doesn't matter who's catching. When I see a guy is 1.2 (seconds) to 1.5, I know

what type of lead I need to get, what type of jump I've got to get."

After the weekend, the Reds led the majors with 49 steals in 60 attempts, an indication they're picking their spots well. The Dodgers had the worst success rate in the NL, with only 12 steals in 27 tries.

In the AL, the Tigers had 45 steals and the Astros 43. The White Sox were worst with only 15 steals in 29 tries.

Someone as fast as Hamilton doesn't have to worry so much about the catcher, but other runners take into account the catcher's ability to get rid of the ball and make an accurate throw. The Cardinals' Yadier Molina, the Rangers' Robinson Chirinos and the Nationals' Wilson Ramos were the best at throwing out runners last season, according to STATS.

Managers don't need a detailed breakdown to figure that out.

They shines but Hopwood, ACS girls steal show

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

San Antonio Middle School's Tyvieann They eclipsed three of last year's records in the girls U14 division in the recently concluded 12th Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championship.

They collected five medals, three of which were gold, and in the process shattered the 2014 records in the 400-meter run, javelin throw, and shot put in the annual track meet held from

May 21 to 23 at the Oleai track and the Hopwood Junior High School field.

They was first to cross the finish line in the 400m run in 1:16.10 to beat ACS' Sarah Wu's 2014 time of 1:23.13. She then threw a distance of 16.83m in the javelin to double Wu's 7.89m.

The SAMS standout also broke Joshalyne Flores' 2014 record of 6.47m in shot put with a 7.82m mark. She also clinched

silver in the 200m run (32.75 seconds) and long jump (3.80) to become the most bemedaled athlete.

Despite They's records, Hopwood and Agape Christian School bets stole the show from the SAMS student, as they hauled the most medals with 10 apiece. Hopwood collected five gold, three silver, and two bronze medals to become the overall girls champion, fol-

lowed by SAMS' 3-1-1 haul. ACS settled for third with its 2-5-3 tally.

Hopwood's Jessme Jones and ACS' Annie Wang settled for the silver and bronze in the 400m run with their times of 1:19.66 and 1:22.41 also besting Wu's 1:23.13, while Whispering Palms' Sally Wei (13.69m) and Elin Wang (4.63m), also of ACS, came in second and third in the javelin.

Elin Wang then added a silver medal in the shot put event, having the second best throw of



JON PEREZ

Girls U14 1,500-meter run gold medalist Kithlin Moses of Hopwood Junior High School, center, poses with Agape Christian School teammates Annie Wang, right, and Elin Wang during the awards ceremony for the 12th Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championship held last month at the Hopwood field.

Route 33 set to clinch top seeding

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Unless a bizarre twist of fate happens tomorrow, the Route 33 Alamo Car Rental boys are out to secure the top ranking in the Budweiser-

Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

The Boyet Sequioco-captained squad, which holds a 157-98 card and an 11-game lead over the Jokers Homeboyz (146-109), will end the regular season this Thursday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Route 33 Alamo Car Rental players pose for a photo during a break in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League last week.

when it hosts the Jokers Wonderpool Aces. The Abyss Titans and Wild Bills are tied for third to fourth with similar 141-114 slates.

The Top 4 teams after Thursday's final regular season will advance to the playoffs where the No. 1 will face No. 4 and the second-ranked squad will take on the third-seeded team.

The winners of the one-game, knockout semifinals will march into the finals, while the losers will clash for third place honors.

Route 33 hiked its record to a league-best 157 victories after winning by default against the Barcode Breakers (64-191) in last week's games, while the Homeboyz defeated the Wonderpool Aces, 12-3.

The Homeboyz could overtake Route 33 if it could score a big win over Jonny's Team SCS and the Wonderpool Aces, aided by luck or divined providence, blank the Alamo Car Rental co-sponsored squad.

In other games, Wild Bill's scored a 10-5 decision over the Abyss Rack 'N' Roll (134-121), while the Titans pulled off a 9-6 triumph against Team SCS

(104-151). The Barcode Hobbits Deadshot (130-125) nipped the Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball (135-120), 8-7.

Wild Bill's will collide with the Breakers, the Titans will take on Magic 8-Ball, and the Rack 'N' Roll will visit the Deadshot in the other matches tomorrow.

Over in the Tuesday League, the Smoke Pub-Armatech Hustlers posted a 9-6 victory over Abyss Crazy 8 to put some breathing space between them and second-running Jokers IT&E Voyagers.

The Hustlers, after their victory, hiked their record to 152-103 to lead the 147-108 of the Voyagers. They are hoping to further pull away against the Voyagers with a win over the Jokers STR8 Shooters in the match that was still being played at press time.

The Smoke Pub Ali'i Destroyers (125-130) trounced the cellar-dwelling Abyss Homeboyz II (91-164), 13-2, while the Voyagers escaped with an 8-7 victory over the STR8 Shooters in the other games last week.

OLEAI

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Kristelle Itaas, Jaydee Jose, Jaron Montenegro, Jaibelle Neimide, Joey Noble, Brandon Tenorio, Jeffrey Palacios, John Thongaram, Merrick Toves, and Marior Tyneth.

San Vicente, TSL, San Antonio, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, and Kagman were the other participating squads in the weekend competition, which was a culmination of NEA's training program for the season for co-ed U12 players.

The seven teams were split

into two groups with Oleai/WSR in Pool B and placing first in the group with its 2-1-0 win-draw-loss record. Oleai/WSR downed Garapan in its first pool play match, 2-0, before whipping Kagman, 7-0, to advance to the semifinals. Garapan took the other Final Four berth in Pool B as it also defeated Kagman, 7-1, for a 1-0-1 slate.

In Pool A, TSL and San Antonio booked the two semis tickets. TSL ruled the group with its 2-1-0 mark and victories over San Vicente, 4-0, and GTC, 4-2. San Antonio was ranked second with its 1-0-2 slate, forc-

ing a draw against TSL, 1-1, and GTC, 2-2, and prevailing against San Vicente, 3-0.

San Antonio was then pitted against Oleai/WSR in the cross-over semifinals with the latter eking out a 6-4 win to march into the title game. The other Final Four pairing was also a close duel with Garapan nosing out TSL, 4-3. TSL and San Antonio dropped to the consolation round and battled for third place with the Octopus outclassing the former in a shootout, 4-2. Floyd Muna, Travis Camacho, Mark Salamat, and Joaquin Fleming scored for San Antonio

best pitchers," Rogolifoi said of Camacho.

Batting champion Verlance Secharmidal, the Braves pitching duo of Darion David Jones and J.J. Lifoifoi, Cedric Ada, Jessie Brel, Jerald Cabrera, Keene Deleon Guerrero, K.J. Deleon Guerrero, Asalschigh Khobby Kaipat, Bradley R. Lieto, Jose C. Lizama Jr., Peyton Lizama, Jhace Stanley B. Palacios, and M.J. Sakisat are the other members of the squad.

The CNMI Big Leaguers may

only face Guam and the Philippines as powerhouse Chinese-Taipei reportedly pulled out due to US visa restrictions, but tournament organizers are still waiting for confirmation. India, which has experienced the same problem, called off its trip.

"It would be nice if Chinese-Taipei could play. We were expecting them to come but I've heard that they encountered problems securing visas. With or without them, we are ready to play in front of the hometown fans," Rogolifoi said.

in the shootout, while TSL got its two penalty shot conversions from Kaden Church and Jon Villagomez. Blake Mister and Rintaro Miyawaki nailed the two goals for TSL in regulation, while Muna hit the brace for San Antonio.

San Antonio along with champion Oleai/WSR and Garapan were awarded trophies at the end of the tournament. NMIFA president Jerry Tan presented the trophies to the Top 3 finishers and was joined in the awards ceremony by NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi and general secretary Ross Zapanta.

"If ever Chinese-Taipei comes, it would be great and nice for us since we love to play against the top teams. The boys learn a lot from the top teams in the region. It is good to see and study our opponent's skills and how they play. It would be nice to watch how our boys react and adjust to the powerhouse squads," added Rogolifoi, who guided the CNMI to gold medal wins in the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games and the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

HOPWOOD

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a sluggish start and leaned on Jude Tengco's explosion late in the first half to establish a good lead en route to a 15-winning margin against Chacha.

Tengco drilled a game-high 18 points, igniting the fire in Hopwood 1's cold offense as he scored 7 straight points after his team went without a field goal for nearly the first eight minutes of the match. Tengco, who knocked in Hopwood 1's first field goal with his triple, added 4 more points off fastbreak layups in the closing seconds of the first half for their 19-5 advantage at the break.

Hopwood 1 managed to pull away past the halfway mark of the first half as it held Chacha scoreless in the final six minutes and change of the opening 20 minutes of play. Chacha was also limited to two field goals, courtesy of Khalid Islam's point-blanked shots, in the entire first half, while the other point came from Chris Sacdalan's split at the foul line.

Islam nailed his first basket after Hopwood 1's Angelo Factor canned a pair of free throws. The 2-all score was the first and only time the title match was

tied, as Tengco took over after finding his rhythm. Before scoring baskets in streaks, Tengco missed his first three attempts and went 0-for-4 from the stripe.

The Hopwood 1 key player also started out for his team in the second half and made the first basket in that period before the rest of his teammates picked up where he left off to keep the squad's lead.

Chacha played a better offense in the second half, but still failed to outgun Hopwood 1 to settle for the runner-up honors. Chacha advanced to the finals after nosing out Hopwood 2 in the semis last Thursday, 35-32, while Hopwood 1 barged into the title game following a 70-40 demolition of San Antonio Middle School.

Hopwood 1's championship win gave the Hilitais a sweep in the league as earlier in the first game last Monday, Hopwood 1 topped Hopwood 2 in the girls finale, 44-21. Connie Camacho coached both champion teams.

Hopwood 1 41-Tengco 18, Factor 8, Ocaya 4, Jones 4, Quiroz 4, Pangelinan 2, Laxa 1.

Chacha 26-Islam 9, Sacdalan 6, Kaipat 6, Reyes 2, Santos 2, Quitano 1.

Scoring by halves: 19-5, 41-26.

2015 PSS Basketball League Girls Final

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Hopwood Junior High School 1 (in blue uniforms) and Hopwood 2 players exchange high-fives after their title match in the 2015 PSS Basketball League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Hopwood 1's Jessme Jones looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.



Hopwood 1's Carla Ballesteros scans the floor as she is defended by a Hopwood 2 player.



A Hopwood 1 player loses possession as she faces two Hopwood 2 defenders.



A Hopwood 1 player is hemmed in by two Hopwood 2 defenders.



A Hopwood 2 player beats a Hopwood 1 member for the loose ball.



Hopwood 1's Chevy Kate Alipio dribbles along the sideline.



Hopwood 1 and 2 players chase the ball down the baseline.



A Hopwood 2 player, left, stays close on defense against a Hopwood 1 player.



Hopwood 1 and 2 players scramble for the ball.

Serena tops
Stephens;
Sharapova out;
Djokovic-Nadal
on tap
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Saipan Tribune Sports



They shines
but Hopwood,
ACS girls
steal show

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28 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Oleai/WSR tops Aloha Maid Cup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai and William S. Reyes Elementary School players pose with NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, standing left, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, standing third left, and NEA staff Ruselle Zapanta, standing right, for a group photo after receiving the championship trophy in the U12 NEA Aloha Maid Cup 2015 held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Hopwood 1 routs Chacha in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Hopwood Junior High School 1 waltzed its way past Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, 41-26, in

the championship game in the boys division of the 2015 PSS Basketball League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hopwood 1 recovered from

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hopwood Junior High School 1's Jude Tengco looks at the basket, while two Chacha Oceanview Junior High School defenders stay close to him during the first half of their title game in the PSS caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Oleai Elementary School and William S. Reyes Elementary School players teamed up in ruling the spring edition of the U12 NEA Aloha Maid Cup 2015 held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Tony Rogolifoi likes the CNMI Big Leaguers chances in the Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Baseball Regional Tournament.

After all, most of the players of the 16-member squad played for of the Commonwealth's Senior League team that went to last year's World Series in Bangor, Maine.

"This team is the cream of the crop. They are familiar with each other since they were members of the Senior League team that went all the way last year," said the veteran baseball manager.

Rogolifoi is hoping to duplicate that feat when the CNMI battle southern neighbor Guam and perennial contender Phil-

CNMI Big League All-Stars armed and ready

ippines in the regional tournament that Saipan will be hosting from June 26 to July 6.

"These boys are ready to play. We've been practicing four times a week with one day reserved for weight training since it would greatly help their strength and conditioning," said the Saipan Baseball League coordinator.

Big League regular season most valuable player A.J. Evan-

A.J. Evangelista of the Natibu Sports Association Braves, left, who is joined in the photo by Saipan Little League Baseball vice president Annie Flores, is hoping to bring his MVP-like performance to this year's Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Tournament.

Oleai/WSR topped the seven team tournament organized by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's National Elite Academy after outclassing Garapan Elementary School in the finals, 4-1. Mark Esalan scored two goals in the title win, while

Sebastian Manabat and Ian Maniago chipped in one goal apiece. Taka Borja nailed the lone goal for Garapan.

Joining Esalan, Manabat, and Maniago on the champion squad are Marlouie Ancheta, Bensler Benjamin, William Celeste,

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gelista of finalists Natibu Sports Association Braves and championship MVP Keola Camacho of the IT&E Fielders lead the 16-member squad.

Evangelista was the most consistent hitter in the recently

concluded Big League season, as he scored the most runs with 13 and tied teammate Frankie Lieto and the Padres' Bradley Lieto with the most triples.

Camacho, on the other hand,

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